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New York

President: Mr. Ping ..... (Gabon)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda items 38 and 46 (*continued*)

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Report of the Secretary-General (A/59/206)

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General (A/59/285)

2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Note by the Secretary-General (A/59/261)

Mr. Sow (Guinea) (*spoke in French*): My delegation is pleased to participate in this important debate to discuss the second report of the Secretary-General on progress in implementation and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) over the past year. We thank the Secretary-General for the high quality of the documents before us and Mr. Gambari for his devotion and skills at the head of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa. We are pleased that the newly established Office is playing a key role in promoting international cooperation in meeting the challenge of NEPAD and in consolidating and extending peace, stability and progress in Africa.

We are convinced that the implementation of NEPAD's projects remains the solution to the diverse ills besetting Africa, including insecurity, armed conflict, poverty, famine, endemic diseases, the distressing issue of refugees and displaced persons, myriad cross-border problems and so on. Guinea is confident in that enormous programme of renewal, which reaffirms Africa's responsibility for its own development as a stakeholder in the various changes under way today, and reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of NEPAD as the new partnership for the development of our continent.

Guinea has thus established a national coordinating committee for NEPAD, under the auspices of the Ministry for Cooperation. It consists of representatives of the various ministerial departments concerned, the private sector and civil society. The coordinating committee is now at work; it has launched various programmes and projects in priority areas and begun to draft sectoral policy plans. Our Government is striving to mainstream NEPAD into our national development plan and to adapt the structure of budgetary expenditures to the priorities and objectives of NEPAD.

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In that regard, Guinea is encouraged by the progress made in advancing the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism. We are actively preparing to join that process, convinced that self-evaluation will help African countries to identify their deficiencies in terms of institutions, policies and capacities, and to propose measures — as stressed by the Secretary-General's report — to remedy the situation and to attain the Millennium Development Goals.

It is clear that, if Africa is to continue to acquire ownership and leadership of NEPAD, it must master those complex problems and resolve the various constraints that exist in all sectors. The serious financial, technical, economic and coordination difficulties covered by the report help us to grasp how much is at stake for Africa and our partners.

We need to act quickly. We need new and revitalized relations between Africa and its partners if we are to reverse the current negative trends. That is why, in addition to Africa's huge efforts and sacrifices, we must continue to encourage the international community to shoulder its responsibilities. Our partners must give us the economic and financial resources, expertise and transfers of technology necessary for the speedy implementation of NEPAD's objectives.

My delegation welcomes the initiatives and encouraging steps taken in the context of South-South cooperation by the international community and the United Nations system to ensure the complete success of NEPAD. I also commend the various resolute initiatives taken by countries or by regional and international institutions, private and public alike, in response to the appeals made at the United Nations and other decision-making bodies on behalf of Africa. My country is also encouraged by the sound measures taken by our bilateral and multilateral partners to ease the debt burden of African countries. We ought not lose sight of the fact that even those recipients of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative that have completed the process have not enjoyed the relief they sought.

Accordingly, we make an urgent appeal to our development partners to cancel our debt, which has become untenable, and to improve and enhance the quality and effectiveness of assistance to Africa, all of which could mobilize increased support for NEPAD and reduce poverty in Africa.

Given the myriad stakeholders involved, however, we have a daunting challenge to meet. We must ensure the consistency of measures taken with international support for NEPAD. So long as consistent policies are not a core element of assistance to Africa, the partnership we seek may not be able to achieve those basic goals. The international community must base its actions on progress made by certain international bodies or by such friendly countries as Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands to promote integrated global development based on greater consistency and joint responsibility.

In conclusion, I wish to express my country's gratitude to its development partners, friendly countries and the entire international community for their commitment to Africa at this crucial stage of its development. In order to consolidate the progress made, my delegation advocates strengthened support from this Organization for the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa with a view to promoting the coherent and effective support of the entire United Nations system for the development of our continent. Adequate means and political and diplomatic support must be forthcoming to enable us to assist the African Union and its subregional organizations to support the efforts of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other institutions of the international community to discharge their respective mandates to implement NEPAD and to ensure follow-up for the implementation of decisions taken at all the summit meetings and world conferences on Africa.

The Republic of Guinea reiterates here that it will spare none of its energies and limited resources in contributing to the speedy realization of the noble and legitimate objectives so dearly sought by our peoples.

Mr. Kim Sam-hoon (Republic of Korea): At the outset, my delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports on progress in implementing the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and achieving durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.

The Republic of Korea supports Africa's ownership and leadership in implementing NEPAD. In that regard, we are pleased to note that the past year witnessed the firm commitments of African countries

to advancing the implementation of NEPAD as they developed sectoral policy frameworks, implemented specific programmes and earmarked financial allocations to selected priorities, such as infrastructure and health. At the same time, the international community demonstrated its solidarity and partnership with NEPAD through proposals and actions to facilitate its implementation. Moreover, we applaud the continued commitment of the United Nations system to supporting NEPAD and we hope that the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa can play a greater role in enhancing the coherence, coordination and effectiveness of the United Nations in support of NEPAD. Furthermore, we welcome the steady progress achieved in peacemaking and peacekeeping in Africa.

However, we do note with concern the assessment of the Secretary-General that progress has been modest and slow in democratic governance, administrative capacity, the independence of the judiciary, transparency and accountability. We believe that good governance based on the rule of law, participation, accountability and transparency is a sine qua non for sustainable development and durable peace in Africa.

Accordingly, we welcome the recent development of the African Peer Review Mechanism process and we are especially pleased that the number of signatories to the Mechanism has increased to 23. We believe that the Mechanism is a very good way to put mutual accountability to work for good economic, political and corporate governance and human rights observance. For that reason, we encourage more African countries to join this important initiative and we hope that the Mechanism will soon become fully functional with technical support from the international community.

For our part, in order to share various experiences and practices of good governance and Government reinvention, the Republic of Korea, in close cooperation with the United Nations, will host the Sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government in May 2005, with the theme of "Toward Participatory and Transparent Governance". We are confident that that forum will help all participants gain new ideas on good governance and contribute to renewing the commitments of the international community to building good governance. We are looking forward to the active participation of African countries in that forum.

The Republic of Korea's development experience has led us to the view that international trade is an effective tool through which developing countries can develop their economies and integrate into the world economy. However, in order for all countries, including those in Africa, to reap the full benefits of international trade, it is necessary to create a more liberalized and development-friendly multilateral trading system. In that regard, we are of the view that the successful completion of negotiations to fulfil the Doha Development Agenda and expanded market access to African products are essential. It is also vital for developing countries to focus on enhancing their production capacities and human resource development.

To that end, the Republic of Korea has joined global efforts for the completion of Doha Development Agenda negotiations and expanded market access for Africa. My Government has also provided duty-free market access for 87 items originating from the least developed countries, the majority of which are in Africa, making Korea the world's fourth largest importer of products from those countries, according to World Trade Organization statistics. In addition, we are considering further expansion of that preferential treatment for the products of the least developed countries.

Based on our own experience, we cannot overstate the importance of human-resource building in the development process. In that regard, the Republic of Korea has invited 1,700 African trainees, ranging from Government officials to academics, to study in various fields, including education, public administration, health care, water supply, agriculture and trade policies. We have also dispatched 300 experts in various fields and medical doctors to African countries since 1991.

We welcome the recent global increase in official development assistance (ODA) towards Africa and we hope to see further efforts to increase ODA to Africa, as well as to use the increased ODA more effectively. Moreover, we would like to see further progress made to solve the debt problems of the highly indebted poor countries in Africa. By exploring such options as debt restructuring and debt relief, we believe that a final resolution can be achieved that will contribute to the sustained economic growth of the highly indebted poor countries.

For its part, the Republic of Korea has contributed approximately $260 million of ODA to Africa since 1991 and made a contribution of $10 million to the Trust Fund of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative last year. In addition to its contributions to Africa's development in trade, ODA and debt relief, the Republic of Korea has joined in the global effort to consolidate peace and security in Africa. Toward that end, we are currently participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations in Western Sahara, Liberia and Burundi. Moreover, my Government has decided to make a financial contribution to support the United Nations Development Programme's mine clearance programmes in Mozambique and Eritrea.

In conclusion, we believe that NEPAD's implementation process is making significant progress. However, the partnership between African countries and development partners needs to be further strengthened in such a way that African countries can continue to maintain leadership and ownership of the implementation process. At the same time, as the report of the Secretary-General (A/59/206) pointed out, development partners must better assist African countries by improving coherence in their trade, official development assistance and debt policies. The Republic of Korea would like to renew its commitment to assisting the African countries in their efforts for development. We remain confident that the resolute commitment and political will of the African countries, matched by an effective response from the international community, will facilitate further progress in the implementation of NEPAD.

Mr. Ikouebe (Congo) (*spoke in French*): I will focus my statement on the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), but first I would like to congratulate the Secretary-General for the excellent report that he has presented to us today (A/59/206), two years after the General Assembly's adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development in resolution 57/2. This report, issued pursuant to resolution 58/233, highlights the measures and decisions taken by Africa in implementing NEPAD and the support of the international community, including the United Nations system, throughout the period under consideration.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made yesterday by Nigeria on behalf of the African Union, and it will confine itself to making some basic comments on the various facets of Africa's action and the international community's support.

The report of the Secretary-General rightly notes that Africa, over the period under consideration, has achieved notable progress, both in the area of peace and conflict resolution and in economic development. He underscores the endeavours of African leaders who have undertaken to build the new Africa on a strong foundation of democracy, respect for human rights, good governance and transparent management of natural resources. The report attests that the message of this new purposeful Africa, which has taken charge of its own destiny by relying on its own forces, has begun to move. We cite as proof of this the establishment and operation of mechanisms and institutions provided for in the framework of conflict management and settlement, strengthening the rule of law and economic reforms promoting investment and growth.

We can now assert that in spite of constraints of all kinds, NEPAD is being implemented. Progress has been made in preparing sectoral guiding plans and in executing clearly identified programmes and projects. Granted, it will be difficult for many African countries to fulfil their commitment to allocate 15 per cent of their national budgets to health, 10 per cent to agriculture, 5 per cent to water and sanitation and so forth, but encouraging steps have been taken in executing priority projects affecting such vital areas as infrastructure — with a list of 20 projects — health, education, environment, agriculture, science and technology.

As the keystone of this structure, the NEPAD secretariat takes an active part in formulating investment programmes for certain countries, particularly in the area of agriculture and food, an area in which it is also assisted in carrying out a comprehensive review of the food reserve systems across the continent. Africa's various regions are integral to NEPAD's implementation, and each of the major subregional communities is committed to reviewing the action to be taken, so as to better adapt their approaches.

In order to identify the impediments to — and propose a timetable for — the implementation of 27 priority projects of a list of 83 projects selected for the Central African subregion, a seminar bringing together experts from 11 member countries of the Economic

Community of Central African States met on 14 and 15 October in Libreville, Gabon, which provides coordination for NEPAD in Central Africa. The projects selected mainly concerned the building of regional roads, interconnection of electrical grids and development of water supply systems and telecommunications.

Given all these endeavours aimed at the political and institutional facets of peace and security, as well as at economic reforms and initiatives, a number of observers now recognize the progress made by Africa — a gross national product growth of approximately 4 per cent in 2004 and probably 5 per cent in 2005, and a growth rate of 3 to 7 per cent in most of the sub-Saharan African countries. However, many observers also note that in view of the persistence of a number of negative factors, such as poverty, pandemics, unemployment and democratic pressures, this growth rate needs to be higher than 7 per cent per year in order to have a meaningful impact.

Africa is therefore very mindful of the efforts that it still has to make in order to add to those already important steps. It likewise appreciates international support for the commitments it has undertaken and upheld.

The report of the Secretary-General stresses the support that the international community, particularly the United Nations system, is giving to the implementation of NEPAD. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa, led by Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, which is doing excellent work in terms of information, promotion and analysis in support of NEPAD. Very recently, the current Chairman of the African Union, Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, urged the Security Council to strengthen that Office, which should receive all the means necessary for its operation, given the role it is called upon to play and the expectations invested in it.

I wish above all to pay tribute to the invaluable contribution of the whole of the United Nations system to the implementation of NEPAD in its various facets, and I stress that additional financial resources should be allocated to the entire system and its agencies, so as to enhance the commitment to implementing the programmes adopted. Moreover, it is important for the commitments undertaken under the Monterrey Consensus to be realized in the form of an increase in official development assistance, which would help to finance NEPAD's projects. Likewise, efforts must be continued to relieve and cancel the debts of the poorest African countries.

Mindful as we are of the urgent need for external support, we wish to thank all our partners from outside the continent. We convey to them here our warmest gratitude, which they have earned through their constant commitment that encourages us to undertake greater sacrifices.

Lastly, we look forward with great interest to the conclusions of the panel of eminent persons that the Secretary-General has set up with a view to enhancing the international community's support for NEPAD.

Mr. Talbot (Guyana): Guyana is most pleased to associate itself with the statements made by the delegation of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by Barbados on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) States Members of the United Nations in the present debate on "The New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support".

The item under consideration today is of special significance to my delegation given Guyana's longstanding ties of history, cooperation and solidarity with the countries of Africa. We are therefore grateful for the opportunity to voice our support for the efforts being made to promote durable peace and sustainable development on the continent.

The Secretary-General's reports, contained in documents A/59/206 and A/59/285, are especially useful in helping us to appreciate the progress made and the problems which still remain in the quest for peace and prosperity throughout Africa. In that quest, we are particularly heartened by the fact that African countries themselves are taking the lead. Their commitment deserves the unwavering support of the international community.

In reviewing the report on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a strong sense of ownership and leadership on the part of African countries and organizations can be seen in the increasing integration of NEPAD priorities into national policies and programmes. The progress being made in developing sectoral policy frameworks, implementing specific programmes and in establishing

targets for expenditure on selected NEPAD priorities give us cause for satisfaction.

We note the launching of specific initiatives in areas such as infrastructure, health, education, industrialization and so on, as well as advances in operationalizing the African Peer Review Mechanism. The increase in the number of countries that have signed on to the Mechanism may well reflect a growing confidence in its value as an instrument for advancing the NEPAD agenda.

Notwithstanding the encouraging achievements made so far, we cannot help but be concerned that the quest to attain NEPAD objectives continues to be beset by many challenges and constraints. Africa's heavy debt burden is a major drain on its development potential. The continent lacks the financial resources needed to generate the requisite levels of growth to reduce poverty. Africa's share of global trade remains marginal, while the region has had limited success in attracting sufficient levels of foreign direct investment. This state of affairs represents a major impediment not only to the attainment of NEPAD targets but also to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Given those challenges, the positive steps taken by several countries to ease the burden of Africa's debt, including through debt cancellation, as well as the increases in official development assistance to the continent, are to be welcomed. However, it is clear that much more is required in these areas as well as with respect to trade and foreign direct investment, if Africa is to be able to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of NEPAD.

We therefore join in urging increased international support for the New Partnership. We call on our partners in the donor community to increase levels of official development assistance to the continent and to take bolder measures to relieve the debt burden faced by African countries. We also view South-South cooperation as an integral part of the international response to NEPAD and are encouraged by the role that developing countries are playing in support of Africa. As noted in the statement made by the representative of Barbados yesterday, CARICOM countries have been able to provide support in such areas as electoral reform and public sector reform and stand ready to extend further cooperation within the limits of our resources.

If I may now turn to questions of peace and security, my delegation is pleased to note that the number of armed conflicts in Africa has declined significantly in recent years. According to the Secretary-General's report, the number of countries in the region experiencing serious armed conflict or civil strife dropped from 14 in 1998 to six in the current period. Similar trends are to be noted with respect to countries in severe political crisis or experiencing turbulence. At the same time, it must be a source of continuing concern that some of the potentially richest countries in Africa are still affected by conflict and are thus unable to exploit the full potential of their own resources. The pursuit of development, therefore, cannot be separated from the continuing search for peace.

It is my delegation's hope and expectation that the newly established African Peace and Security Council will play a pivotal role in the resolution of conflict and disputes and in the promotion of durable peace on the continent. The active role played by the African Union in addressing major crises such as the one in Darfur commands Guyana's strong support. We look forward to the further strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements and institutions in Africa. The support of the United Nations and, indeed, of the wider international community remains crucial to the successful realization of the goals of peace and development in Africa.

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm my Government's continuing support for the process of positive change currently unfolding in Africa. We trust that the international community will stay the course with Africa to ensure that the vast potential of that great continent will be translated into tangible gains both for its people and for the world.

Ms. Al-Mulla (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation is pleased to participate in this debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the causes of conflict in Africa, and lasting peace and sustainable development. We have read with interest the reports of the Secretary-General on the progress made in terms of support by the international community for NEPAD as well with respect to the efforts made to resolve conflicts in Africa.

Kuwait attaches great important to these two items because they reflect the interests and concerns of

African States, with which we have close historical ties based on our mutually supportive relationship in the process of facing common issues. We are carrying out varied economic activities in Africa, and we believe that NEPAD has consolidated a principle that we have always believed in — the close link between the success of the development process and political stability and peace.

I wish to pay tribute to the efforts made by the African States themselves in integrating the priorities of the NEPAD initiative into national policies and development planning, as well as their efforts to create institutional mechanisms in the areas of good governance, peace and security, to ensure the success of that initiative.

One of the major challenges facing African States is overcoming the vicious circle of debt relief in order to free up enough financial resources to attain their development objectives. The report of the Secretary-General states that 11 African States have reached completion point and achieved debt cancellation, and that that other African States have derived some advantage from debt cancellation. We welcome those developments.

Well before NEPAD, Kuwait was one of the first countries that sought to relieve the debt burden of African countries, which is a major burden for many of them. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, within the framework of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative, has helped to relieve the debt of 12 African States: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea, Uganda, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana, Mali and Mauritania. The debt burden of those countries was lessened by giving them more favourable terms and by rescheduling that debt over a period of 40 years, beginning with a grace period of 16 years with interest rates of 0.5 to 2 per cent. These terms are easier than the original terms of the loans. The Kuwaiti Fund is currently reviewing possibilities to help to reduce the debt of other African countries when they reach the end of their HIPC Initiative support. I would also like to note that partnership between developing countries themselves, as well as the role of the Fund of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), have all helped, within the framework of the HIPC Debt Initiative, to decrease the foreign debt of 18 African States.

Indeed, Kuwait was one of the first countries to provide development aid to a number of countries in the world, including in Africa, and that aid has at times reached 8.3 per cent of Kuwait's gross national product. The Kuwaiti Fund has given soft loans worth $637 million to NEPAD from its beginning in 1991. The Kuwaiti Fund also assisted a number of African development institutions to provide aid: the African Development Fund benefited from a number of grants, which by 2003 totalled $190 million; the African Development Bank has been granted $115 million; the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa received $48 million; and the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries was given $15 million in aid.

The Kuwaiti Fund also gave technical grants totalling $220 million in mid-2004, 10 per cent of which went to African countries. The Kuwaiti Fund also participates in a number of rehabilitation programmes worth more than $100 million for the benefit of 11 African countries, to help, for example, make a success of the first programme to combat river blindness disease. A total of 19 other African countries were helped through this programme until 2003, including Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I would also like to mention our participation in efforts to combat tropical diseases within the framework of the Foundation for Tropical Diseases, of which Kuwait was a founder. The Kuwaiti Fund also participated in the International Development Law Institute, through which aid was given to a number of African countries.

Kuwait, through the OPEC Fund, participates actively in a number of development projects in developing countries. Ninety-nine States have been assisted by the OPEC Fund, among them 46 African States. The volume of soft loans in 2004 was some $5.382 billion. To date, $3.482 million has been dispersed by the Fund. That partnership also includes participation by the OPEC Fund in the Common Fund for Commodities. It provides grants and opportunities for States to participate in combating HIV/AIDS.

In conclusion, we would like to make a few additional comments. First, NEPAD is not a temporary exercise but an ongoing, long-term process that requires continuous evaluation. In Kuwait, through the participation of the Kuwaiti Fund, we have participated in ministerial meetings of the Southern African

Development Community since the beginning of the 1980s. We have therefore been able to witness the evolution of NEPAD from its birth as an idea to the present, which could be said to constitute a policy of African renaissance. That idea was a success because of Africa's determination to make it succeed.

Secondly, African States and African specialized organizations must redouble their efforts to promote this initiative internationally and not just focus their efforts on one continent or one group of donor countries. They also need to mobilize international awareness for African countries.

Thirdly, we appreciate the pioneering role played by the United Nations in mobilizing international assistance for NEPAD. We pay tribute to the Secretary-General for having established an advisory panel to support NEPAD. We would like to thank Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, who has highlighted the international role played by that initiative.

Fourthly, African States have made considerable efforts to meet the requirements of the international community. Those countries have to play a crucial role in stabilizing Africa in order to encourage donor countries and the private sector to provide the necessary technical and economic assistance to that continent. It is high time for the international community to take further steps to encourage Africa by increasing political, material and technical assistance to build on the enormous efforts already expended to create the necessary peaceful conditions for development assistance.

Ms. Lima da Veiga (Cape Verde): From the outset, I would like to welcome the initiative to keep issues so crucial for our continent on the agenda of this session of the General Assembly, under items 38 and 46.

I would also like to congratulate the Secretary-General for his relevant and encouraging reports on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the causes of conflict and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa and on the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa. The joint debate on those items highlights the close linkage existing between peace, security and development and the need to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the challenges still confronting Africa.

Cape Verde associates itself with the statements made by Nigeria's representative on behalf of the African Union, and by the representative of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Allow me, however, to single out certain aspects that I deem to be quite relevant.

The various speakers that preceded me in this debate have put it clearly: despite the pessimism of certain analysts about the situation in Africa, Africans have a new and clear vision of their future and are demonstrating assertiveness in its implementation. They are taking their destinies into their own hands.

African countries and regional organizations have taken a series of initiatives aimed at tackling existing conflicts by, inter alia, promoting peace negotiations and brokering peace agreements. They have also created an enabling legal environment and institutional frameworks for conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacekeeping. Much progress has been achieved and Africa is suffering from fewer conflicts today than at the time of the publication of the original report of the Secretary-General in 1998 (A/52/871).

The establishment of the African Peace and Security Council within the African Union has been a major step for that organization, allowing it to play an effective role in the management and resolution of conflicts. Since its establishment, the Peace and Security Council has monitored developments and examined conflict situations in 12 African countries.

In this context, it is gratifying to underline the positive outcome of the peace process in Somalia, which culminated with the inauguration, last week, of the country's highest authorities. That was made possible thanks to the determined involvement of the African Union, member countries of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and the valuable support of the Kenyan Government, as well as other partners, particularly the United Nations.

Closer to home for us in Cape Verde, the Economic Community of West African States has played an important role in facilitating conflict management in West Africa in the Mano River Union countries and in Guinea-Bissau, for which we highly commend it.

Yet conflict and civil strife continue to be the primary roadblock on the path towards African development. There are gaps to be filled and

challenges and constraints to be met. Moreover, there is the need to continue to address the root causes of conflicts and to deal with post-conflict situations in the most effective way. We cannot permit setbacks that could play havoc not only with the countries or regions affected by conflicts, but also with their close neighbours.

Against this backdrop, Africa and the United Nations should enhance their cooperation in monitoring the situation in Guinea-Bissau, assist the legitimate authorities in tackling the structural causes of recurrent crises, consolidate stability and mobilize resources for economic recovery.

The issue of the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons is another topic that deserves deeper consideration both inside and beyond African borders. Moreover, measures to halt it have to be strengthened.

As the Cape Verdian head of State declared recently, peace cannot be considered as mere absence of war. A solid peace is time-demanding and requires confidence-restoration policies among the conflicting parties and a strategy to consolidate them. Moreover, peace and stability inside States require inclusive institutions and policies that are responsive to the legitimate political and economic aspirations of the populations and capable of ensuring protection of their cultural identities.

It is true that the main responsibility for peace rests with the African States, but a concerted effort on the part of the international community is still crucial to dealing with existing conflicts and the new trends and sources of conflict or potential threats to political and social stability.

In this context, the new partnership between the United Nations and the regional organizations has acquired particular importance. The Security Council's Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, as well as the Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict have paved the way to a more comprehensive approach in addressing conflicts.

We also applaud other initiatives by international partners, such as those undertaken by the European Union, as well as the Group of Eight's commitment to support efforts to enhance African regional organizations' capacity to engage effectively in conflict management and resolution.

While investing steadily in conflict management and peacebuilding, African leaders and societies have laid the foundation for sustainable development. As is widely recognized, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is anchored in the determination of Africans to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalizing world.

The social and economic dimension of NEPAD is crucial to helping Africa promote sustainable development and achieve the Millennium Development Goals with which it is linked. African countries have demonstrated their commitment to the implementation of NEPAD by earmarking financial resources for selected sectoral priorities.

The increase in the number of countries joining the African Peer Review Mechanism indicates the growing appeal of its voluntary approach and of African ownership and leadership of the process. We believe that the Mechanism is a positive instrument to put mutual accountability to work for better economic and political governance.

Again, as the Secretary-General put it, the progress achieved in crisis management has not been followed by substantial advances in the areas of economic and social poverty and social exclusion, which still affect large numbers of Africans. The lack of sufficient resources is a significant constraint in addressing challenges such as capacity-building, unemployment reduction, particularly among young people and women, easing demographic pressures, ensuring equitable distribution of resources and combating HIV/AIDS pandemics.

On the other hand, the debt crisis in Africa is no longer merely an issue of temporary lack of liquidity but one of structural insolvency, representing a serious obstacle to the socio-economic development of the continent. That is why we fully agree with the Secretary-General's stance on the need for a deeper consideration of the impact of debt-servicing on the financing requirements for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Despite international commitments, namely those entered into in Monterrey, policy coherence is not yet at the core of assistance to Africa, as the report points

out. There is room for broader coherence in international assistance for Africa as far as trade, aid and debt policies are concerned to effectively support endogenous African efforts to effectively deal with those challenges.

At this juncture, allow me to say a word about a topic of particular importance to my country. The African reality is diverse. Hence the need to effectively incorporate into NEPAD's implementation the special dimensions of specific realities such as those of island and landlocked countries. Cape Verde, which together with other African island and partial island countries has launched a think-tank initiative on this issue, is pleased to note that there is growing awareness of that need. In that context, we welcome in advance the prospect of a broader discussion within the framework of the high-level meeting to be convened in the first half of next year with the support of the NEPAD secretariat and the United Nations system.

I would like to reaffirm Cape Verde's political will and commitment in the implementation of NEPAD. We remain confident that the effective response of the international community will encourage further progress in the implementation of NEPAD. That is in the interest of all, Africans and non-Africans alike.

To conclude, it is gratifying to note the commendable role of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in keeping African issues on the global agenda and promoting international support for peace and development in Africa, as well as in coordinating efforts within the United Nations system to ensure policy coherence on NEPAD priorities.

Mr. Diarra (Mali) (*spoke in French*): My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the African Union and with the statement made by the representative of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

My delegation commends the Secretary-General for the high quality of his reports on the agenda items under consideration today.

The adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was a forceful political act by our leaders in their search for viable ways to achieve the integrated development of the African continent. The adoption of NEPAD by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization for African Unity (OAU) in Lusaka in 2001 marked the beginning of the convergence of the vision embodied by NEPAD and the OAU's ambitions for economic integration. African ownership of NEPAD has enabled coherence between the existence of regional communities and a continental approach to development. Convergence efforts have been strengthened across the continent through contributions from the public and private sectors and civil society.

During the period under review, NEPAD has moved from being a political vision to formulating guiding plans on specific issues and implementing programmes and projects in priority sectors. Expenditure targets have been set in certain priority sectors, such as infrastructure development, education, the environment, tourism, agriculture, science and technology, industrialization and health.

It is urgent to strengthen national and regional programmes in the health sector in order to contain HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and reduce their negative impact on public health on the continent. More than 144 million people in Africa are at risk of contracting malaria. There have been some 12 million cases of malaria, causing approximately 310,000 deaths per year, including 200,000 infants.

My delegation welcomes the convergence between the Plan of Action against malaria adopted by the African Heads of State and Government in Abuja in April 2000 and the Millennium Development Goals. That linkage of the two efforts has also been boosted by the action of the United Nations Roll Back Malaria Partnership and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, as well as the action of civil society, in particular the Medicines for Malaria Venture. At the level of the African continent, national structures incorporate the objectives of the Abuja Plan of Action. Subregional networks are being put in place to harmonize programmes. The African Union and NEPAD have also integrated the fight against malaria and have established links with the secretariat of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership.

All efforts in the fight against malaria must work for prevention, the widespread distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets, the creation of new insecticides and the inclusion of preventive measures in broad vaccination campaigns, especially for

pregnant women and infants, vaccine research and the strengthening of health-care capacities.

Artemisinin combination therapy (ACT), which is effective in cases resistant to traditional treatments, should be made more accessible. That will require additional resources given that, for example, ACT treatment will cost at least $1 billion in 2004, which is four times the cost of existing treatments. African countries must redirect their resources towards this priority sector and act to eliminate taxes and tariffs on mosquito nets, medicines and related technologies.

Africa's partners should substantially increase their level of assistance. In that connection, we welcome the fact that additional resources from the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria have been allocated to combating malaria; that priority sector now receives 29 per cent of the Fund's resources.

The translation of the NEPAD vision into quantifiable programmes and projects is the result of our ownership of the structures established to that end at the continental level. In that connection, my delegation pays tribute to the perseverance of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee.

We also commend the African peer review panel of eminent personalities for the adoption of their work programme and rules of procedure. I welcome the fact that my country, Mali, along with 22 other countries, has joined the African Peer Review Mechanism. The NEPAD Steering Committee and secretariat also have an important role. Achieving NEPAD's goals also depends on the regional economic communities within the African Union and on the African Union Commission. We must therefore ensure convergence between the priorities of the African Union and those of NEPAD.

NEPAD programmes and projects can be conceived and implemented only with the support of the many partners outside Africa through the African Partnership Forum and with the support of the Commission for Africa created last February. South-South cooperation can also contribute to capacity-building and to the establishment of partnerships between the Asian and African public and private sectors. We call on them to continue their support in the implementation phase.

Africa's key partner is undoubtedly the United Nations system, through the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for NEPAD. The Panel will review and assess the scope and the adequacy of international support for NEPAD and make recommendations to the Secretary-General on actions that the international community can take to strengthen implementation of NEPAD. As well, all bodies of the United Nations system will contribute their expertise in their respective area of competence. My delegation would especially like to mention the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States for their commitment to NEPAD and to the Brussels Programme of Action, respectively.

Among the actions that partners should take to support NEPAD's implementation is to enable the continent to deal with its debt in a sustainable and viable way. A substantial increase in the volume of official development assistance is a prerequisite for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. To that end, official development assistance for Africa must rise from the current $23.09 billion to $50 billion per year. In addition, it is essential to harmonize and simplify preliminary administrative arrangements.

With regard to the continent's participation in international trade, in addition to preferences agreed upon bilaterally with certain countries, Africa's capacities must be strengthened in the areas of trade negotiations and supply. That gives rise to the problem of productive investment. Today, Africa attracts only 2 per cent of total world capital flows. Foreign direct investment — which was $14 billion in 2003 — is concentrated in a few countries and in a few areas of activity. Partners could also help to create an environment conducive to investment. The report concludes that we need to exploit all existing coordination mechanisms to enhance the consistency of trade policies and debt assistance in order to create the complementarity needed for NEPAD.

My delegation believes that the report does not sufficiently highlight the potential of the African diaspora with regard to the implementation of NEPAD's programmes. The diaspora could provide two kinds of assistance. First, it could expertise, which is sorely needed for the conception and implementation of NEPAD's programmes. African intellectuals have

left en masse for areas where they can make good use of their knowledge. In addition, there are African descendants who feel linked to the continent. We must find ways in which to involve them in NEPAD's implementation. The Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora, held several days ago in Dakar at the initiative of President Wade of Senegal, clearly defined that contribution.

The diaspora's contribution could also consist in mobilizing savings for productive investment in countries of origin. The transfers made by migrants throughout the world amounted to $80 billion in 2003. Africa should set about this task with both African expatriates and their countries of residence. That could provide opportunities in terms of money transfers. In the longer term, Africa must, as a priority, commit itself to improving the living and working conditions of the diaspora in their countries of residence. In that regard, ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families — whose Committee my country has the honour to chair — is becoming an imperative. The experience accumulated by the International Organization for Migration could also be useful in that context.

Maintaining an environment of peace and stability on the African continent is a prerequisite for attaining the socio-economic development objectives defined within NEPAD. That in turn will have a positive effect on social peace, because NEPAD's political and economic governance component aims precisely at eliminating the abuses and excesses that are often the primary causes of crises in Africa. We must also build capacity in the fight against the trafficking of small arms and light weapons and of natural resources, which fuels conflict.

The United Nations system and the continent's other partners should continue their cooperation with subregional organizations and with the African Union to build their peacekeeping capacities, emphasizing the protection of women and children in conflict situations. We must strengthen assistance and protection for refugees in Africa. Moreover, peacekeeping operations should provide political, technical and financial support to peacebuilding activities by ensuring the rule of law, economic recovery and sustainable development. We must establish long-term peace and stability.

In conclusion, with the creation of the African Court on Human and People's Rights, the protection of human rights should be established as a vocation on our continent. In the view of my delegation, it is an essential condition for social peace.

U Aye (Myanmar): My delegation is taking the floor to demonstrate its solidarity with and support for the African-owned initiative the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). My delegation is encouraged to see progress in the implementation of that initiative, which is now in its third year. The commitment of African countries to NEPAD is unequivocal. More African countries are joining in a voluntary process of self-assessment to identify and apply best practices in political and economic governance, which is called for in the African Peer Review Mechanism. The first support missions have been able to visit Ghana, Rwanda, Mauritius and Kenya to prepare for their reviews this year. The NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee has also been able to identify 20 top-priority infrastructure projects in areas including energy, transport, water, sanitation and information and communications technologies, which are critical to African development.

We welcome the support that the international community has shown for the implementation of NEPAD's initiatives, including through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, the Sino-Africa process and the India-Africa Fund. We commend the commitment of the Secretary-General to assist NEPAD and the recent establishment of an Advisory Panel to assist him in monitoring international support.

We are encouraged to note that international assistance to Africa increased in the past two years, rising from $22.2 billion in 2002 to $23.09 billion in 2003. Foreign direct investment also increased, from $11 billion in 2002 to $14 billion in 2003. Twenty-three African countries have benefited from debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative. We are encouraged to note that leaders of the Group of Eight have extended that initiative for another two years. In addition, African countries have benefited from various trade facilitation measures.

However, despite such cooperation, Africa — as pointed out in the Secretary-General's report (A/59/206) — still needs more aid, debt relief, foreign

investment and trade assistance to implement NEPAD. We are confident that the international community will continue to provide sustained support to ensure the full implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Peace and stability are prerequisites for economic development in Africa. Without an enabling environment of peace and stability, one cannot achieve progress in economic development. My delegation is particularly pleased by the statement in the Secretary-General's recent report (A/59/285) that Africa is much more peaceful today than ever before. Yet some ongoing issues in Africa have demonstrated that further efforts are needed to achieve peace and stability. We commend the efforts of the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States to play a greater role in peacekeeping.

We applaud the establishment and formal launching of the African Union's Peace and Security Council on 25 May 2004. The engagement of African peacekeeping forces in conflict areas in the region will undoubtedly contribute to achieving greater peace in Africa.

One of the greatest threats challenging African nations is the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. This disease has the potential to deprive many countries in Africa of their most valuable human resources and productive labour forces. It also affects women and children, destroying their families and social lives. My delegation calls for the successful implementation of the World Health Organization's 3 by 5 Initiative, which aims to put 3 million people into treatment by the end of the year 2005. From the depths of this health crisis a commensurate treatment plan must be rigorously pursued, in addition to prevention and education activities. My delegation also calls for the availability of affordable drugs for the treatment of HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Another health concern in Africa is malaria. Over 300 million cases of the disease are estimated each year around the world, resulting in more than a million deaths. Ninety per cent of all malaria cases are found in Africa, especially south of the Sahara, affecting mostly young children and pregnant women. We commend the Roll Back Malaria campaign, jointly launched by WHO, the World Bank, UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme, which aims to cut the number of deaths from malaria by 50 per cent by the year 2010 and by 75 per cent by the year 2015. As we enter the halfway point of the United Nations Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Africa is still facing the menace of that disease. United Nations agencies and the international community must redouble their efforts to achieve the aims of the Decade.

In addition to international support measures, South-South cooperation plays an important role in African development. My delegation firmly believes that South-South cooperation will supplement the international community's efforts to assist African development. In that regard, I wish to highlight the cooperation between the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Africa. As stated by the Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the forthcoming Summit of ASEAN and Africa in Bandung in 2005 will undoubtedly reinvigorate the spirit of Bandung and further increase the cooperation in the social and economic fields between our two regional groupings.

In a globalized world, one cannot remain indifferent to events unfolding in any corner of the globe. If we do not act aggressively enough to tackle the problems of Africa, it will affect lives everywhere. Accordingly, my delegation calls for a sustained momentum to implement NEPAD to the fullest extent possible and to enhance cooperation of the international community to help achieve the aspirations of our fellow African peoples.

Mr. Shah (Pakistan): It is a great privilege for me to participate in this important discussion today, which focuses essentially on the inextricable link between peace and development. The two reports of the Secretary-General — one on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/59/206), and the other on the progress in implementation and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/59/285) — complement each other. The reports offer a comprehensive and coherent picture of the continent's efforts to resolve conflicts, stabilize peace and create the necessary conditions for development in Africa.

The Secretary-General has reported steady progress in the areas of peacemaking and peacekeeping in Africa. It is heartening that, compared to 1998, the number of African countries in a situation of armed

conflict or facing deep political crisis has decreased, due in part to progress in the implementation of NEPAD. African leadership and African institutions are increasingly involved today in seeking African solutions to African problems. The African Union (AU) and its Peace and Security Council are assuming important responsibilities. The Intergovernmental Authority of Development, the Economic Community of West African States and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community are making notable contributions to regional peace and security. The cooperation and coordination of the United Nations with these regional and subregional organizations has considerably evolved. In my delegation's view, these trends are highly positive and must be sustained and further strengthened. We support the Secretary-General's intention to explore new ways of collaboration between the United Nations and the AU.

While these achievements are impressive, new conflicts and complex crises continue to afflict Africa. The risks today of relapsing into conflict are real as new trends and sources of conflict present potential threats to peace and security. The Secretary-General has mentioned poverty, and particularly youth unemployment, in that context. He has also mentioned illicit exploitation of and trade in natural resources as a major source of instability in Africa. We could not agree more with the views of the Secretary-General. In our view, many of the conflict situations in Africa today are the direct consequence of the politics of poverty and scarcity.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is another source of destabilization, as are demographic pressures and ecological factors, as acknowledged in the report of the Secretary-General.

Pakistan is a significant stakeholder in the international community's investment in Africa. We believe Africa's potential cannot be fully realized as long as conflicts rage on the continent. Pakistan is convinced that sustainable peace can be assured only by evolving and ensuring a comprehensive conflict prevention strategy, addressing the root causes of conflict, strengthening long-term capacities for peaceful settlement of disputes and mobilizing resources for post-conflict peacebuilding, reconstruction and development. The United Nations system and the international community must work together to evolve a comprehensive, integrated and coherent policy response.

We are pleased that efforts to build a viable and effective partnership to tackle the myriad challenges in Africa are already under way. We commend the African leadership for their vision in launching NEPAD, an Africa-led, Africa-owned and Africa-driven initiative providing an integrated and comprehensive framework for Africa's sustainable growth and development. Fittingly, NEPAD sets out a broad vision for Africa's future, outlines a strategy for achieving that vision and spells out a programme of action focused on a number of key priority areas.

The Secretary-General's report notes that NEPAD has made considerable progress in developing sectoral policy frameworks, implementing specific programmes and projects and establishing targets for expenditure in NEPAD sectoral priority areas, including, among others, infrastructure, health, education, agriculture and the environment. This is indeed very heartening. None of this could have been achieved without the determination and the collective political will of the African countries to make NEPAD work for development.

The progress made is unmistakable, but, unfortunately, it is still far below the real potential of NEPAD. The African continent faces severe constraints in the effective execution of many of its programmes. Foremost is the serious inadequacy of fiscal resources to meet the targets and existing needs.

There is overwhelming evidence suggesting that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will remain largely elusive for Africa unless something is done substantially to enhance existing development assistance flows to generate the resources required for achieving the MDGs. Africa's inability to realize the MDGs would also be seen as a failure of NEPAD.

The issue of resource flows has to be addressed effectively and expeditiously, with the support and assistance of the international community. The Secretary-General's report cites various actions taken by the international community to bolster development activities and initiatives in Africa. But my delegation believes that more needs to be done, and urgently.

An important endeavour, acknowledged in the report, is the grant of debt relief, including debt cancellation to Africa by the developed country

partners. This is a welcome development. Such efforts need to be further expanded to include other countries in Africa that are in financial distress.

The continuous rise in foreign direct investment flows into Africa is another encouraging sign, even though the numbers are still insignificant in terms of global foreign direct investment flows. We feel strongly that bolstering investments, expanding trade by allowing greater market access to exports from Africa, and building capacity and human resources are the most important tools to put Africa onto the track of fast development. These, we believe, should be the three main pillars for a strategic partnership between Africa and the rest of the world.

We also see the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, the recent Asia-Africa Subregional Organization Conference and other similar initiatives as part of an important process that could complement efforts made in the framework of NEPAD.

Policy coherence is as much a fundamental policy challenge for Africa as it is for the rest of the developing world in the context of international support. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to highlight the long-standing need for an integrated development strategy, not only for Africa but also for other developing parts of the world.

For its part, Pakistan has always actively supported initiatives that seek to address the problems and crises faced by the countries of Africa. We have also been a strong supporter of the effective and early implementation of NEPAD. Pakistan has consistently supported the political and economic aspirations of Africa. We are equally proud of our participation in several United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa. Our military and civilian personnel have been part of United Nations operations in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and the Western Sahara.

At the national level, the Government of Pakistan has been successfully running a special technical assistance programme for Africa since 1986, a fact acknowledged in the Secretary-General's report. Hundreds of young African professionals in various fields have benefited from that ongoing programme.

I wish to conclude by noting that conflict has sapped Africa's potential for too long. The peoples of Africa continue to suffer as a consequence. The challenges that the continent faces are colossal, but Africa now has the opportunity finally to turn the corner. NEPAD represents a realistic framework to meet the challenges facing Africa. The commitments are there, and so are the plans. It is time for the world to turn words into deeds. This is a moral obligation as well as a political responsibility.

Mr. Djangone-Bi (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): My delegation endorses the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the African Union and the statement made by the representative of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We would echo delegations that spoke earlier in welcoming this debate on the important question of Africa's development.

We would like to take this opportunity to convey sincere thanks to the Secretary-General for his abiding interest in Africa. That interest was reflected in the appointment of a Secretariat official — Mr. Ibrahim Gambari — to deal with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). We congratulate Mr. Gambari on the excellent report on that item.

For Africa, in this era of globalization, NEPAD represents a crucial instrument for all development strategies, at a time when regional and subregional blocs are being strengthened. The ongoing interest shown not only by African States but also by the international community in general and the Group of Eight in particular attest to its importance.

The report of the Secretary-General entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: second consolidated report on progress in implementation and international support" notes that considerable progress has been made despite the clear constraints and difficulties. Major infrastructure projects have been undertaken by heads of State and Government in the sectors of transportation, energy, sanitation, drinking water and new information and communication technologies.

The health strategy adopted by the African Union to wage an integrated struggle against diseases is encouraging, since disease knows no borders. On the question of malaria in particular, whose consequences are as devastating as the AIDS pandemic in Africa, an increase in the resources of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria would make it possible to stem this other pandemic, which poses a

real obstacle to the economic and social development of our countries.

Education, the environment and sanitation all are priority sectors for sustainable development, but, unfortunately, they are not a focal point for investors. We welcome the fact that they have been taken into account by NEPAD and given a high profile.

Côte d'Ivoire, whose economy is agriculturally based, welcomes the integrated programme whereby 10 per cent of the national budget is devoted to that vital sector, which employs more than half of its population.

We support the African Peer Review Mechanism — a very original system that ensures that NEPAD is based on good governance and the observance of human rights.

In an era of globalization, cooperation among States and among regional and subregional organizations has become the backbone of all poverty-eradication policies. In that respect, Côte d'Ivoire has always played and continues to play a very active role in subregional cooperation organizations — in the West African Economic and Monetary Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) — as well as in organizations at the continental level — participating with the former Organization of African Unity and now the African Union (AU), to name just a few. In our poverty reduction strategy paper, and in all of our development plans, the subregional dimension has always been taken into account in a spirit of solidarity.

Financing is the key to the success or failure of projects. Here, we note the major efforts being made by African countries to make resources available to NEPAD, despite their enormous national needs. We also welcome the support of the international community in general, in particular the support of the G-8, which has demonstrated its solidarity through various instruments and mechanisms. They include, among others, the Africa Partnership Forum, established by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); the Commission for Africa, established by the United Kingdom; the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the African Growth and Opportunity Act of the United States of America; the extension to 2006 of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative; and the European Union's "Everything But Arms" initiative.

In that context, Côte d'Ivoire welcomes the adoption by the General Council of the World Trade Organization, on 1 August 2004 in Geneva, of a set of framework agreements that stipulate modalities for negotiations within the Doha development agenda, including frameworks that deal with agriculture in general, and with the problems relating to cotton and the elimination of export subsidies in particular.

However, international solidarity alone is not enough. Indeed, out of a total of $70 billion in long-term loans to developing countries by OECD in recent years, only 5 per cent have been allocated for Africa, of which only 1 per cent was slated for sub-Saharan Africa. We think it would be a good idea to enable African countries to obtain more resources by giving them easier access to markets and by reducing their debt burdens. To do that, African countries are counting on a constructive attitude on the part of the developed countries to ensure the successful fulfilment of the Doha development agenda, particularly in regard to agriculture.

All the efforts made towards Africa's development are at risk because of the constant succession of social and armed conflicts on that continent. Two thirds of recent peacekeeping operations have been deployed in Africa. Those conflicts — which have diverse and varied causes, both internal and external — very often find a fertile breeding ground in poverty. Although national, those crises have subregional and regional repercussions and because of their cross-border nature threaten to jeopardize the implementation of NEPAD projects. For that reason, Côte d'Ivoire believes that the resolution of such crises must take the cross-border aspect into account. In that context, we fully support the ECOWAS overall stabilization plan for durable peace in West Africa, a region where three countries are in a conflict or post-conflict situation.

Conflict prevention, within the framework of ECOWAS or the United Nations, should also be given special attention. Prevention means honest, sincere cooperation among neighbouring States in the area of security.

Côte d'Ivoire appeals at one and the same time for international solidarity and the observance of the principles of good governance and responsibility for the success of NEPAD.

Mr. López Clemente (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): To Cubans, Africa is far from being just a place in geography classes; it is a topic of vital attention. No one can deny the profound impact on the formation of what we know today as the Cuban nation of the legacy inherited from Africans brought to the island as slaves by Spanish colonizers. The fields of Cuba of that time rang with the cries of those forcibly separated from their loved ones, and the crack of the whips wielded by those who enriched themselves on the sweat of those men and women was often heard. Similar scenes were witnessed throughout the American continent and the Caribbean. The slave route was an integral part of the blatant exploitation and impoverishment of the continent. Nowadays many seek to ignore, justify or, worse still, to erase that sorry chapter from modern history.

Cuba has been a remarkable witness to the spirit of rebellion of Africans and their descendants and of their contribution to independence struggles, and the creation of a genuine national culture is a source of pride to us all.

Much has been said of the current conditions in Africa and the accumulated needs of that region after centuries of exploitation and plundering. As far as Cuba is concerned, as long as the current political and economic order continues to hold — in which a few consume almost everything and the majority of the population of the Earth is deprived of the so-called benefits of neo-liberal globalization — the problems of the third world, in particular those of African countries, will not be solved. Current international economic relations leave Africa at a total disadvantage. It is a reflection of an appalling inequality that the African population, which comprises 18.5 per cent of the world's population and whose lands hold the greatest reserves of natural resources anywhere in the world, should share 1 per cent in the world's gross domestic product and only 2 per cent of world trade.

The initiatives described in the report of the Secretary-General concerning progress in implementing the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/59/206) indicate that modest improvements have been made in areas such as debt relief and the availability of official development assistance (ODA). However, the data supplied in that document is conclusive: in 2002 African nations received only $22.23 billion in ODA from donor countries, while they disbursed $39.53 billion in debt servicing to creditors — that is to say, to those very same donors. And the debt has continued to grow. Africa — along with the rest of the third world, because of the unjust international order that we suffer under — continues to finance the opulence of the rich countries.

Together with the economic and social situation, the heritage of colonial geographical divisions continues to be felt. In Africa at present there are more armed conflicts than in any other region. They are an additional obstacle to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, as they have devastating effects on the economic and social development of the region. Regional efforts to resolve those problems have been substantial. More than ever, what is required of the United Nations is an integrated approach to resolve the problems relating to peace, security and development on the continent.

The African peoples require the support of the international community. The resources that they possess must be dedicated to paying off their external debt at the same time as they try to achieve development. Africa today spends four times as much in debt servicing than on education and health combined. The situation is untenable, and cooperation must be freed from all conditions and interference. Indeed, there is an urgent need for cooperation to be designed to grant special and differential treatment, access to markets, stability of commodity prices, total and immediate forgiveness of debt, access to technology, a substantial increase in ODA and the necessary financial resources.

A cardinal principle of Cuba's foreign policy is the consistent practice of internationalism and solidarity with other peoples of the world. The genuine expression of that has been the policy of cooperation with the countries of the African continent, which has been followed since the early days of the Cuban Revolution.

Cuba has provided disinterested cooperation and solidarity to almost all countries of the African continent. The main sectors in which cooperation has been provided are health, education, sport, agriculture, fishing, construction, water resources and physical planning. From 1963 to 2003 a total of 86,395 Cubans provided services in 38 African countries. In mid-2004, a total of 2,407 individuals were offering their services in 29 African nations. Among the cooperation

programmes in which Cuba participates we would highlight those on comprehensive health care, food security, literacy, AIDS prevention, medical school support, combating malaria and other diseases, human resources training, and others. There are also other cooperative programmes in other socio-economic areas specific to certain countries.

All of that takes place in spite of the fact that Cuba is a country of scarce resources that, for more than four decades, has been subjected to a rigid economic, trade and financial blockade, which during the past year has hardened and whose extraterritorial scope has broadened.

Africa deserves respect above all: solidarity and respect. In order to resolve its problems, it does not need more advice or alien formulas for development. African countries require not paternalism, but financial resources, human capital formation and access to markets and technologies. Once and for all, Africa deserves settlement of the historical debt of centuries of exploitation and plundering.

Mr. Le Luong Minh (Viet Nam): Let me begin by thanking the Secretary-General for his report (A/59/206), prepared in response to the request of General Assembly resolution 58/233, on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and with the statement made by the representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

As we met here today to review the implementation of NEPAD, we are pleased to realize that over the past year, as highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General, African countries have achieved progress in developing sectoral policy frameworks, implementing specific programmes and projects and establishing targets for expenditure on selected sectoral priorities of the New Partnership. Both in conception and in specific actions, we have noted progress in major spheres such as infrastructure, health, education, environment and tourism, agriculture, science and technology and industrialization. Furthermore, much effort has been made to integrate the gender dimension into the planning and implementation of various aspects of NEPAD. The increase in the flows of foreign direct investment is also an encouraging sign.

Such progress is of special importance given the difficulties faced by the majority of African countries and the low level of their development. After decades of prolonged tension and hostilities, Africa, at last, is moving forward on its path of development. Mutual support for each other in their struggles for independence and freedom has brought the people of Viet Nam close to the peoples of Africa. The peoples of Africa deserve our special and sincere congratulations on their achievements.

In his report, the Secretary-General pointed to the challenges and constraints that African countries are facing in the implementation of NEPAD. He mentioned, among other things, fiscal problems, the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on various sectors, the possibility of uneven benefits from trade liberalization for different African countries. Those challenges and constraints are not new, and are not unique to African countries. What my delegation wishes to stress here is that while African countries are trying to maintain and build upon the initial, and modest, progress they have made in implementing NEPAD and in implementing the Millennium Development Goals, those challenges and constraints, if not effectively addressed, will make their tasks more difficult.

In that context, besides assistance from developed countries, South-South cooperation and assistance is necessary for African countries in implementing NEPAD. We are pleased to note that over the years, many developing countries from other continents have provided assistance to African countries. We believe that the forthcoming Asia-Africa Business Forum, to be held later this month, and the Asian-African Summit to be organized next year are meaningful initiatives in that direction.

The Secretary-General rightly said that the United Nations has a key role to play in mobilizing support for NEPAD. We welcome and highly appreciate the efforts of the United Nations and the relevant United Nations agencies in this connection and hope that the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for NEPAD will be successful in its dialogue with Africa's development partners with a view to promoting support for NEPAD.

Besides friendship and solidarity, Viet Nam sees in African countries great potential for mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields, including

agriculture, health, education, trade and investment, and others. Over the years, despite limited resources, Viet Nam has endeavoured to promote multifaceted cooperation with African countries. Hundreds of Vietnamese educational and medical experts are working in African countries. For years now, under a new form of cooperation — tripartite cooperation with the participation of Viet Nam, an African country and a third party such as the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations — hundreds of Vietnamese agricultural experts have been sent to Senegal, Benin, Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania and Madagascar to assist our African friends in agricultural development.

In May 2003, we took the initiative of organizing in Hanoi an international conference entitled, Viet Nam-Africa: Opportunities for cooperation and development in the twenty-first century, with the participation of ministers and other high-ranking officials from 24 African countries, nine United Nations agencies, the World Bank, the European Union, and the International Organization of la Francophonie. The conference not only contributed to further mutual understanding but also helped create a new driving force in the development of cooperative relationships between Viet Nam and African countries. We look forward to making further contributions to the implementation of NEPAD.

Mr. Olhaye (Djibouti): My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of Africa. My delegation also wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his second consolidated report on progress in implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (A/59/206), his report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/59/285), and his report entitled "2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, particularly in Africa" (A/59/261).

The second consolidated report of the Secretary-General on progress in implementation and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a welcome document that sheds sufficient light on NEPAD's programmes, activities and developments and that underscores the extent to which African Governments have examined their conditions. The breadth of NEPAD's plans and the implicit coordination and commitment that will be necessary are clear indications of Africa's seriousness of purpose. The continent will surely continue to lag behind in its potential and remain a mere onlooker in the global economy if it does not make strides in coming together as a whole. What is gratifying to see in the Secretary-General's report is the distance Africa has travelled, from mere slogans and posturing to concrete plans, structures and financial details.

Africa's history with regard to development has consisted to a large degree of individual country efforts, along with some regional collaborations. But with NEPAD, we are now facing a challenge: to think, design and perform on an increasingly continental scale. In that way, we can see our continental potential, set realistic targets in specific time frames and determine the resources that will be necessary to meet our goals and targets. We can also prioritize our efforts, monitor and evaluate our progress and recalibrate our targets accordingly.

Even that too brief overview shows that we are coming to better appreciate the enormity of our tasks: where we are; the progress that we have made — and, at times, the lack of it; and the resources that we have, do not have and will require.

As the Secretary-General aptly points out, a distinguishing feature of NEPAD is its combination of the presentation of policy frameworks on specific issues with the implementation of programmes and projects in priority sectoral areas. Last year was marked by progress in developing sectoral policy frameworks, implementing specific programmes and projects and establishing expenditure targets on selected NEPAD sectoral priorities. Chapter II of the Secretary-General's report, on actions by African countries and organizations, highlights the NEPAD efforts in a number of critical areas, such as infrastructure, health, education, environment and tourism, agriculture, science and technology and industrialization. There is a clear impression that considerable work and analysis have taken place on the development of costs, priorities, strategies, action plans and policies. The inclusion of other players and actors, such as the private sector, civil society organizations, regional organizations and official bodies, demonstrates Africa's intention to be inclusive in its quest for development and renewal.

NEPAD brings together a wide array of institutions, organizations and leaders, including United Nations agencies, donors and investors. The report of the Secretary-General says that,

> "As the implementation of NEPAD moves forward, a strengthened partnership is needed, in which African countries deepen their commitments to the priorities of NEPAD and its development partners take a composite of carefully targeted measures and actions to give NEPAD a major impetus ...
>
> "African countries have demonstrated their commitment to advancing the implementation of NEPAD." (*A/59/206, paras. 66 and 67*)

What is necessary now is for donors to step forward to meet Africa half way, which in many ways was the understanding if Africa showed its seriousness.

Obviously, the usual litany of constraints faced by African countries, such as commodity price trends, weak debt relief initiatives on the part of the industrialized world, insufficient official development assistance, continuing trade restrictions, limited and highly concentrated private investment and crippling macro-economic policies imposed by external institutions, only tend to exacerbate Africa's dire situation.

Any discussion of NEPAD must include the continuing threat of poverty in Africa. That condition alone makes more urgent the realization of NEPAD by creating conditions for sustainable development and the implementation of projects in priority areas. It is especially necessary to reverse the rising trend of youth unemployment, which could constitute a threat to stability in many countries. Equally, it is important to address the mounting demographic pressures.

The progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/59/285) is encouraging but alludes to threats. On the one hand, there appears to be noticeable progress in reducing the number and the prevalence of conflict situations on the continent. There has also been significant movement in creating structures and mechanisms to address conflict in Africa — most notably in Africa itself, as well as in the United Nations and other international organs. The need to commit funds and resources to the prevention of conflict is clearly on the table now, and the creation of an African standby force, with its necessary equipment, skills, resources and leadership, is now a distinct possibility.

It could be said that one must prioritize one's challenges and deal with them accordingly. Conflict destabilizes and leaves everything in disarray. So, perhaps that situation must be dealt with first. In that respect, Africa has come a considerable distance. From 14 conflict situations in 1998, we are down to six today. Equally important, most African countries enjoy relatively stable conditions and are governed by democratically elected regimes. Twenty-three countries have acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism of NEPAD, and all African States are signatories of the Algiers Declaration of 1999, which emphasizes the recognition of new Governments only when they are constitutionally elected. It is also encouraging to note the efforts made by African countries and regional organizations in promoting peace negotiations and brokering peace agreements. The creation under the African Union of legal frameworks and structures for dealing with conflicts, such as the Peace and Security Council and the Committee of the Wise also augurs well. The African Union has already proven its worth in peacemaking and peacekeeping by deploying forces and military observers in a number of conflict situations.

While Africa's newly enhanced role is a positive development, the skills, experience and resources of the United Nations remain critical. The Secretary-General's report extensively outlines the many departments, agencies, committees and individuals of the United Nations system involved in conflict prevention and resolution, and the list is an impressive one. Many are working with the African Union, as well as with subregional organizations, in developing the necessary skills. There is little question that the resources and skills of the United Nations, as well as those of the industrialized countries, which are often reluctant to expose their own troops to danger in Africa, are needed to bolster Africa's capacity.

Obviously, other problems that need to be dealt with in conflict situations include the protection of civilians and their civil rights, the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons and the stress on neighbouring countries, situations which are often destabilizing and draining. Organizing humanitarian

assistance is a challenge few outside the United Nations and selected international relief organizations can handle.

None of that, however, says anything regarding the necessity for post-conflict peace-building. The picture is decidedly involved and complex. Here, the Secretary-General makes a major point in noting the division between assessed contributions for peacekeeping operations and voluntary contributions for critical humanitarian and development activities during transition periods. That remains an impediment to the seamless support necessary to take a country from the stage of humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping to that of building support for long-term development programmes. More resources are required on a predictable basis for peace-building in areas such as strengthening democratic governance, enhancing administrative capacity, ensuring the independence of the judiciary and promoting transparency and accountability. Progress in those areas has been modest and slow, to be sure.

The continuing menace, death and destruction caused by malaria far exceeds that of HIV/AIDS. Looming ominously under the radar of public concern, it remains a dangerous threat to millions of people. Every year, it kills more than 1 million people. The General Assembly, by its resolution 57/294, called for support of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/123), such as support for Roll Back Malaria partner organizations, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The recommendations also urge all African countries to implement the Abuja recommendations to waive taxes and tariffs on bed nets and netting materials that prevent infection and to increase domestic resource allocation to malaria control. What we are seeking in this and other relevant meetings is therefore an update on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the General Assembly resolution.

The recent report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration" (A/59/282) highlights disturbing statistics, relating particularly to sub-Saharan Africa. Clearly, Africa represents the major focus of the malaria crisis, where resistance is on the rise. Newer and more effective combination therapies and medicines are badly needed. In this context, it is important to note the promising results of a new malaria vaccine that is now in clinical trials with children aged one to four in Mozambique. According to the British medical journal *The Lancet*, the vaccine managed to reduce risk by about 30 per cent and cut cases of severe malaria by more than half. But developing such a vaccine is very costly and requires unambiguous support from advanced countries and from foundations.

The global expenditure on malaria prevention and treatment today is around $400 million a year, and much of that comes from one donor, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, whose private efforts have been remarkable. As I stated last year in my intervention, what stands out is not only the size of their largesse, but also the intensity of their personal focus and concern for the lives and well-being of the poor. Creation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is also a major breakthrough and holds the potential of access to funds for malaria control commensurate with the needs.

Finally, it is essential to note the conclusion of the Secretary-General's report that malaria is treatable, preventable and curable. This can be seen in the zero to low level of incidence in many areas of the world where malaria has been eradicated. Major advances are possible in many countries by simply utilizing existing tools. Developing new tools, such as a vaccine, deserves continued support, although such tools may be years away.

We hope more Governments and organizations will join the noble cause of eradicating one of humanity's scourges from the face of the Earth.

Mr. Kryzhanivsky (Ukraine): At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers in expressing appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports submitted under today's agenda items. The detailed observations, thorough analyses and practical and forward-looking recommendations contained in those documents constitute a sound basis for our discussion.

Last year was marked by a number of milestone events that will have a long-term impact on the process of integration of the African continent. Progress in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), in particular through establishing its sectoral policy frameworks, was complemented by the institutional strengthening of the

continent through the creation of the Pan-African Parliament and the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council. Thus, the commitment expressed by African countries to the principles of ownership, leadership and responsibility underpinning the New Partnership is steadily being translated into reality in three key areas: the economic, the political and the security spheres.

Of particular importance is progress in moving the African Peer Review Mechanism process forward. We agree with the Secretary-General that the increase in the number of countries that have signed on to the Mechanism demonstrates the growing appeal of its voluntary approach. My delegation is of the view that practical implementation of this innovative feature will help many African countries reach higher economic and political standards through a transparent system of self-monitoring and self-control.

There is no doubt that international support is a vital element for the success of NEPAD. In this regard, we welcome the growing number of international initiatives aimed at assisting Africa in achieving the Development Goals. These include the African Partnership Forum, the Commission for Africa, the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, among others. In this respect, we trust that, as it is important for the African countries to stand united in overcoming their problems, it is equally critical for the international community to ensure coherence in its African policy, if it wishes to speak with one voice in its dialogue with Africa.

This is where the United Nations has a particular role to play. By effectively coordinating global advocacy and mobilizing international support for NEPAD, the United Nations should make a valuable contribution to the implementation of the New Partnership. This demanding mission necessitates the strengthening of collaboration and coordination among the various components of the United Nations system. In that context, we take positive note of activities undertaken by the Office of the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa, which serves as a focal point for NEPAD in the United Nations system. We also welcome the Secretary-General's recent decision to establish the Advisory Panel on International Support for NEPAD, consisting of eminent economists, development practitioners and academics.

As an active partner of Africa, Ukraine fully supports the principles and objectives of the New Partnership and is closely following the process of its implementation. We are ready to participate in the realization of programmes and projects in a number of NEPAD's sectoral priority areas, such as infrastructure, industrialization, energy, transport, agriculture, education and the application of space technologies. Relevant proposals have already been submitted by Ukraine to the NEPAD secretariat, and we are looking forward to their implementation.

Because it realizes that the active involvement of the African regional economic communities is essential to NEPAD's success, Ukraine appointed a special envoy this year to one of those structures, the Southern African Development Community.

It is well known that sustainable development is unimaginable without the consolidation of peace and security in Africa and elsewhere. Despite significant achievements in tackling the scourge of African conflicts, conflict still constitutes a major impediment to the renaissance of the continent.

Today we feel satisfied at witnessing an encouraging change in the way that African conflicts are dealt with. More and more responsibility for conflict resolution is being shouldered by Africans themselves. Making full use of the expertise and potential of the African Union, as well as of the Economic Community of West African States, the Intergovernmental Authority of Development and other regional organizations, has proved to be the most effective way to restore peace. That is why we trust that one of the main priority tasks of the United Nations and the international community at large is to enhance the capacity and the proactive role of the African Union and regional bodies in conflict prevention, management and resolution and in peace consolidation. By doing so, the United Nations will encourage African leadership to eradicate the scourge of war, breathing new life into Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

We strongly believe that this new philosophy of interaction among the United Nations, the African Union and other African regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security has to be further developed. In this context, my delegation welcomes the Secretary-General's intention to instruct the relevant United Nations components to produce

creative ideas on new ways of collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union in the light of changed realities.

Ukraine has always been committed to the objectives of development, peace and stability in Africa. I would like to reaffirm Ukraine's readiness to continue to take an active part in the promotion of international solidarity and partnership with the African continent.

Mr. Tesfu (Ethiopia): I would like to express my delegation's appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (A/59/206) on agenda item 38 (a), "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support". The report succinctly presents the actions taken by African countries and their development partners. More important, it draws the international community's attention to the constraints on the implementation of the objectives and programmes of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). We believe that removal of those constraints should be the focus of our deliberations.

Let me take this opportunity to highlight the major steps taken under the New Partnership for Africa's Development at the national and regional levels, in accordance with the programme of action. With regard to the centrepiece of the NEPAD agenda, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, bankable projects have been prepared in more than 30 African countries. Initial steps have been undertaken to develop a tracking mechanism to monitor the commitment by African Governments to allocate 10 per cent of their national budgets to agriculture. Ethiopia is undertaking a food security strategy based on our agricultural-development-led industrialization.

Regarding the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), a panel of eminent persons has been identified. As of July 2004, 23 countries — including Ethiopia — have acceded to the APRM. The first group of countries to be reviewed have been identified, and consultations are being held with Ghana, Rwanda, Mauritius and Kenya.

Ethiopia is making progress in establishing good political and economic governance. The Index of Economic Freedom, published annually by the Heritage Foundation, noted that, in 2004, Ethiopia offered the second most improved business environment in the world.

In the area of infrastructure, progress has been made towards the implementation of a number of high-priority projects. Those projects are crucial in an effort to bring about economic integration on the continent, and they are crucial to Africa's competitiveness in the world market.

The NEPAD Environmental Action Plan, including detailed priority projects, has been adopted to protect the environment and to ensure sustainable development. Efforts are also being undertaken to improve the health, education, tourism, industrialization and science and technology sectors.

These and other positive results have been achieved because of the new relationship between Africa and its partners. In our view, these results represent a beginning of a new era for Africa and its partners. However, they need to be further enhanced. In that regard, we note with appreciation the establishment of the Africa Partnership Forum, which is expected to deepen the policy dialogue in support of Africa's development. We also take note of the Group of Eight's reaffirmation of its support for NEPAD, and we look forward to the implementation of that commitment.

It is imperative to recall that the General Assembly is debating the New Partnership for Africa's Development against the background of the Secretary-General's warning that, at the current pace, most African countries may not attain the Millennium Development Goals. We therefore wish to encourage all partners to continue and strengthen their support for Africa's efforts to develop in the following areas.

The first area is agricultural development and food security. Africa is the only continent where per capita food production has been declining over the past four decades. Nearly 200 million hungry people live on the continent. At present, 7.8 million people are in need of food assistance in my country alone. It is for that reason that we have accorded priority to agricultural development in general and to food security in particular.

The second area is market access provisions, combined with the removal of supply-side constraints. Although we commend the recent decision by the World Trade Organization General Council with regard

to the agreement reached on a negotiating framework in the areas of agriculture, services, development issues and trade facilitation, we would like to underscore the importance of speedy implementation of the agreed conclusions. Partnership in the area of trade capacity should be strengthened to remove the supply-side constraints that have stifled the recent market-access initiatives provided to some African countries.

The third area is communicable diseases. HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria are serious problems in Africa that undermine and even retard its efforts aimed at socio-economic development. Those diseases have become other key causes of poverty by depleting the scarce resources available, and thus they require urgent action on the part of the international community.

Since the Assembly is considering the malaria problem, let me share my delegation's view on that issue. Malaria is one of the 10 deadliest diseases in Ethiopia. Seventy-five per cent of the country is susceptible to malaria, and 20 per cent of the population is prone to the disease. In order to effectively combat this widespread disease, the Government of Ethiopia has been implementing malaria prevention programmes for the past 10 years. Since 2001, the national five-year malaria prevention strategy has been integrated into the country's national health programme.

Moreover, it is reported that the parasite is increasing its resistance to the inexpensive anti-malarial medicines currently in use. In that connection, new products such as artemisine-based combination therapies (ACTs) and long-lasting nets are proposed. However, those treatments have been found to be very expensive. My delegation therefore takes this opportunity to urge the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to re-examine the ACT funding programme submitted by Ethiopia.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/237 of 23 December 2003, called on African countries to implement the plan of action relating to the "Roll Back Malaria" initiative. It is to be recalled that the heads of State or Government called upon African countries to reduce their taxes on anti- malarial medicines and long-lasting nets. Accordingly, Ethiopia has reduced taxes levied on nets imported from other sources from 35 per cent to 25 per cent. Ethiopia has also increased its budget to combat malaria from $1.5 million to $2.5 million.

To effectively combat and eradicate the disease in Africa, consolidated technical financial and material assistance — especially through the Global Fund and the relevant international organizations — is essential. The international community should increase the resources available to the Global Fund. My delegation would like to call upon the World Health Organization, UNICEF and all other relevant international organizations involved in implementing the plan of action to effectively prepare for the 2005 mid-term review.

As members are well aware, we in Africa are fully committed to NEPAD's objectives. As we proceed with the implementation of NEPAD, we wish to underscore the importance of translating into concrete action the positive support provided to NEPAD in various forums. Such action needs to be strengthened. In that connection, we commend the Secretary-General for establishing the Advisory Panel on International Support for NEPAD.

Mr. Kamanzi (Rwanda) (*spoke in French*): I should like to take this opportunity to express to you, Mr. President, my delegation's appreciation for having included on the agenda consideration of the Secretary-General's report entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: second consolidated report on progress in implementation and international support" (A/59/206). We thank the Secretary-General for his detailed and instructive report on the steps taken to strengthen the durable partnership between Africa and development assistance providers that is the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

My delegation fully associates itself with the statement made yesterday by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the African Union.

Africa has endured unspeakable ordeals, including the difficulties of the colonial period, the uncertainties of the early years of independence, the many recurring internal and inter-State armed conflicts, genocide, natural disasters and devastating pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, which every year takes away the best human resources of the continent. All that has taken place against a background of problems of poor governance, which have characterized some countries for several decades.

In that context, efforts to achieve an acceptable level of development for African populations have been markedly slow and insignificant. The result of that sorry state of affairs is that the African continent is characterized by the very large percentage of the population living below the poverty line.

While the long list of ills afflicting the continent are far from being overcome, we nonetheless note that Africa is undergoing a remarkable renewal in terms of taking charge of its own destiny. The question of Africa's development has become a priority for most countries on the continent. That is attested to by the significant efforts undertaken by Governments to implement policies favourable to economic growth and the enhancement of the well-being of their populations. At the continental level, the inauguration of NEPAD is the result of Africa's firm determination to take charge of its own destiny by emphasizing that the ownership of development programmes should belong to the beneficiaries and should be identified and prioritized by them.

We welcome the international community's recognition of this new framework for partnership and their unreserved support for it since it was established. We also welcome the efforts of the developed countries that, through various frameworks for cooperation, have demonstrated their determination to support the implementation of national and subregional programmes in the framework of NEPAD. The report of the Secretary-General and preceding speakers have been eloquent in that regard.

I take this opportunity to pay warm tribute to the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Africa, Mr. Gambari, for his very committed advocacy in his campaign to give the world a real picture of NEPAD and its reason for being, as well as for his faith in what the African continent can do through that structure to achieve sustainable development. I strongly support the wish expressed by preceding speakers that the Office of the Special Adviser should receive the funding necessary to carry out its mission well.

While significant steps have been taken towards defining the principles underlying the priority development programmes and the prerequisites for achieving them, we should identify the steps to be taken for implementing those programmes. We believe that it is time to move on to a more sustained stage of concrete activity that moves beyond the principles defined.

It is useful to note in a debate such as this that most development programmes identified by African countries under NEPAD also fall within the overall framework for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Therefore, those programmes should be carried out in strict respect of the commitments made by the partners concerned, both the developed and the developing countries.

In that regard, we are facing a genuine deadlock in which the two partners are shirking their responsibilities. The developed countries believe that the developing countries have not yet done enough to rehabilitate their political and socio-economic environment in order for the donor countries to make available their pledged financial support. For their part, the developing countries claim that they have met the necessary conditions and that financial donors must therefore respect their commitments.

We Africans are aware that unresolved problems persist in the areas of security, good governance and the improvement of our policies for economic and social development. We are so conscious of this fact that we have committed ourselves to a genuine exercise of questioning all our old interaction strategies in order to resolve the problems.

The completely new philosophy of the African Union has demonstrated in the few short years of its existence that the leadership of the African continent is more than determined to equip itself with the means to take charge of the problems that arise on the continent, while acting in concert with other multilateral institutions.

The African Peer Review Mechanism — for whose panel of eminent personalities the work programme and the rules of procedure were adopted in February 2004 in Kigali — is an important sign of the collective resolve to create an environment conducive to sustainable development in all countries. The Mechanism will enable African countries to carry out a self-evaluation, to open up to one another and increasingly enrich one another by sharing their successful experiences, developing synergies of multisectoral action by breaking through deadlocks and bottlenecks identified in the common process of mutual evaluation.

That approach will help to improve the methods of governance across the continent and enhance stability within all countries. The process will make it possible to prevent certain regional conflicts because it can help establish a climate of mutual trust and because it can provide a way to detect in advance causes of potential conflict.

Rwanda is very proud to be among the very first countries to adhere to the African Peer Review Mechanism and to submit itself to the peer review exercise. The preliminary report of that evaluation could be submitted on the occasion of the conference on the Mechanism to be held in January 2005.

The efforts of the African countries call for financial donors to have a less cautious attitude with respect to their commitments. At the same time, it is desirable that the action plans established in response to programmes submitted to them should be supported by coherent execution and follow-up plans, according to a precise timetable to be discussed with the beneficiaries.

We hope that the upcoming high-level event of September 2005 will provide an opportunity to inaugurate a new era of international development assistance, in which all actions that have been identified can be carried out effectively and in a coordinated manner. The high-level event could also lead to a mechanism for consultation and self-evaluation on the part of donors, with the goal of providing permanent assistance for implementation of the major decisions for promoting international development.

Mr. Aboud (Comoros) (*spoke in French*): First, I shall take this opportunity to say how greatly the Government of the Comoros appreciates this meeting, which allows us to consider the root causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa and to discuss progress in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as well as the international community's support for the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, particularly in Africa. Allow me also to thank the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for the relevant information contained in the reports he has submitted to us in documents A/59/285 and A/59/206.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the Ambassador of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and by the representative of Nigeria speaking on behalf of the African Union.

The Union of the Comoros, like certain other African countries, has not been spared situations that have threatened national security and held back development. That is why my delegation very much appreciates the implementation of recommendations aimed at creating a favourable environment for the harmonious development of Africa.

Since its independence, our country has several times been the victim of coups d'état perpetrated by foreign mercenaries. Other events have also taken place in our young republic that have prevented us from tackling development issues. In addition, in August 1997, a separatist crisis broke out in Anjouan — one of the islands that make up our State — that shook the very foundations of the republic. When the international community became aware of that problem, it redoubled its efforts. In December 1997, the Organization of African Unity convened the Addis Ababa Conference, followed by the Antanarivo Conference in April 1999, in which all parties concerned participated and which was to lead to the signing by the parties of the Antanarivo agreement. The refusal by the Anjouan side to sign that agreement was seen as a failure of attempts to settle the question and led to a popular uprising in Grand Comoros.

The anti-Anjouan riots that were unleashed by certain social groups represented a real threat — one that could have led to the Balkanization of the Comoros. Given the imminent threat of a civil war, the national development army, under the command of army Chief of Staff Assoumani Azzali, took the wise decision to intervene in order to protect our people.

While it is true that the seizure of power, which is anti-democratic, is neither desirable nor to be recommended, we must all agree on certain basic aspects of the question. We need to consider the circumstances that led to that decision, the way power was seized and the consequences of the coup d'état.

In that framework, the intervention by the national development army on 30 April 1999 spared our country civil war. There was no bloodshed whatsoever, and at no time was the personal integrity of the political authorities violated. Furthermore, it was following that intervention that, for the first time since the outbreak of the separatist crisis in 1997, a direct dialogue was begun among the leaders of the separatist

movement and the central Government. That is noteworthy because the inter-Comorian dialogue, initiated by Colonel Azzali, the President of the Union of the Comoros, led to the signing of the Fomboni agreement in June 1999, which laid the groundwork for the new Comorian Assembly.

On the basis of that framework agreement — which was supported by the entire international community, whose representatives were present when it was signed — a referendum was held that produced a new Constitution granting broad autonomy to the islands. The agreement signed on 20 December 2003, the so-called Beit Salam agreement on transitional arrangements for Comoros, under the auspices of the international community, made it possible to relaunch the process of finalizing the creation of the institutions envisaged in the Constitution.

That successful outcome was without a doubt the result of the combined efforts of the Comorians, guided by the President Assoumani Azzali, in the context of the inter-Comorian dialogue. We welcome the support provided by South Africa, the countries of the region and the international community as a whole, which made every effort to put an end to the separatist crisis in the Comoros and helped us to establish new national institutions.

Lessons can be learned from that difficult experience. Economic and social problems are often the root causes of the difficulties and crises besetting our societies. The establishment of an institutional legal framework aimed at consolidating the rule of law is, without a doubt, a positive achievement. However, it is also clear that the country's resources and capacities are not sufficient to fund the many new State institutions; the country simply does not have the financial means to do so — especially since the Union of the Comoros has been administered at island and Union levels. All the new structures envisaged in the Constitution are supposed to be put into operation with no increase in resources.

Malaria, unfortunately, is another major obstacle to the development of our continent. It is a leading cause of death in the world. The international community should therefore mobilize the necessary resources to combat that disease as well as the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) — an ambitious project designed by Africans for Africa — should become a reality supported by all and beneficial to all. My country believes also that we should give in-depth consideration to the situation of small island States, and we believe also in Africa's capacity to take ownership of its future with determination and a sense of responsibility.

Furthermore, we have at our disposal a poverty-reduction strategy paper — a set of guidelines for our development priorities which takes on board the Millennium Development Goals and fully accords with the NEPAD strategy.

In order for our development process to be successful — which is a sine qua non for lasting stability — we need the help of the international community. The support of members for the draft resolution on our country is essential, as is their support for the upcoming round table of Comoros donor countries.

Mindful that peace is a prerequisite for genuine development in the country — indeed, without peace there can be no development — we believe that there is no better framework than this body to tackle the scourges that lead to the conflicts that are ravaging our continent, propose appropriate solutions and create conditions conducive to harmonious development, so that our peoples' faith in the United Nations can be strengthened by seeing what the implementation of this body's recommendations can do for Africa.

Mr. Jenie (Indonesia): It is my privilege to associate myself with previous speakers who expressed appreciation for the Secretary-General's report, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: second consolidated report on progress in implementation and international support" (A/59/206).

I, too, wish to associate myself with the statement made by the representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the representative of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a pledge by African leaders, based on a common vision and a firm and shared conviction, that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development, and at the same time to participate

actively in the world economy and body politic. That vision and that conviction has the support of the international community, including Indonesia.

We note with interest that, as stated in the Secretary-General's report, much progress has been made by African countries in developing sectoral policy frameworks, in the implementation of specific programmes and projects and in the earmarking of financial allocations to selected NEPAD sectoral priorities. Much progress has also been noted in moving the African Peer Review Mechanism process forward. In our view, however, such progress merely sets the stage for the necessary hard work to deal with current conflicts, crop failures, food insecurity and HIV/AIDS, which continue to inflict great misery on the African people.

Therefore, addressing these challenges requires a far greater and integrated response from both the Governments of Africa and the international community. In that regard, the Millennium Declaration, NEPAD and the development objectives set out in the Millennium Development Goals, taken together, provide both a framework and mechanisms for the international community to assist Africa in responding to those problems. We believe that the United Nations has a key role in mobilizing international support for NEPAD.

Particularly encouraging are the invaluable contributions currently being made by the United Nations system to ensure the success of the NEPAD initiative, including in the areas of conflict resolution and sustainable development. By placing NEPAD within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations system is making available a wide range of expertise and support to facilitate the achievement of NEPAD's goals.

My delegation believes that South-South cooperation is an important complement to international development cooperation. In that regard, cooperation between African countries and Indonesia has been established within the framework of technical cooperation among developing countries. The Secretary-General's report notes that Indonesia provided a technical cooperation programme to 11 African countries in 2003. Indonesia stands ready to advance such cooperation.

It is in the spirit of cooperation that the Government of Indonesia, together with the Government of South Africa, initiated the convening of the Asian-African Sub-Regional Organizations Conference (AASROC) in Bandung, Indonesia, in July 2003 and in Durban, South Africa, in August 2004. Inspired and guided by the spirit of Bandung — which became manifest in 1955 when the first Asian-African conference was held there — we are establishing a New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) to achieve a better future for countries on both the African and Asian continents. The NAASP is a partnership that allows countries of both continents to unite and make use of the world's largest pool of natural resources and to engage all regional stakeholders in a concerted endeavour to achieve peace, stability and prosperity.

Yet the NAASP will by no means duplicate existing regional initiatives; rather, it will add to them. It will build upon and support existing initiatives, such as NEPAD, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Sino-Africa process and the India-Africa Fund, as well as other initiatives to help create conditions for sustainable peace and development in Africa.

The AASROC process is also deeply involved in the preparations for the Asian-African summit to be held in Jakarta and Bandung from 21 to 23 April 2005, in conjunction with the golden jubilee of the historic 1955 Asian-African Conference. The theme of the summit will be "Reinvigorating the Bandung Spirit: Working Towards a New Asian-African Strategic Partnership". The summit will endorse the NAASP as a renewed political spirit aimed at enhancing the cooperation of the two continents. In preparation for that event, Indonesia and South Africa will convene a meeting of eminent persons in December 2004 and a preparatory meeting in February 2005 in Bali, Indonesia.

Finally, my Government looks forward to welcoming the participation of Asian and African leaders in the Asian-African summit in Indonesia. We also look forward to the participation and cooperation of the relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations and mechanisms, with a view to contributing positively to the success of the Asian-African summit, as it will contribute further to the implementation of NEPAD, with the NAASP as one of its building blocks.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations A/59/PV.36

General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session

Official Records

36th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 19 October 2004, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Ping ..... (Gabon)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Aliyev (Azerbaijan), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 38 and 46 (*continued*)

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Report of the Secretary-General (A/59/206)

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General (A/59/285)

2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Note by the Secretary-General (A/59/261)

Mr. Bshaina (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): I take this opportunity to thank the President for organizing this very important meeting. I also express our gratitude to the Secretary-General for his interest in African issues and his ongoing efforts to establish and strengthen peace and to promote all development initiatives in Africa.

African heads of State and Government reaffirm their resolve and total commitment to the success of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). They have pledged to undertake effective and specific actions to implement NEPAD, which they view as a truly African initiative that responds to all their aspirations for full development.

The convening of this meeting to review both progress in the implementation of NEPAD and international support for the New Partnership clearly demonstrates that the international community is now trying to meet Africa's needs and to implement the commitments and the declarations adopted in many international forums, in particular the Millennium Declaration.

Africa knows that, first and foremost, it is up to Africans to carry out NEPAD. However, international support is crucial. Thus, we urge the United Nations and the international community as a whole to work for the attainment of the NEPAD objectives by taking practical, concrete steps such as mobilizing financial resources, implementing pledges and commitments, increasing official development assistance and direct investment and reducing the debt burden. Other steps should include a new initiative giving African exports access to world markets, in particular the markets of developed countries, assistance for strengthening human resources, in particular through investment in the areas of health and education, drinking water and the creation of infrastructure necessary for economic development.

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To make this new partnership truly effective and positive, our partners must first respect the will, history and culture of Africans. That means not imposing on countries political or other conditions or impositions that ignore the specificities and distinctiveness of African societies or that do not take into account the fact that development is a historical process and cannot be achieved by making political decisions.

Secondly, priority must be given to infrastructure projects, in particular communications projects and projects creating good road networks that would help development in all its aspects. That will promote stability and strengthen peace and security in Africa.

Thirdly, special attention should be given to projects that improve water resources. We need to promote the best possible use of all Africa's water resources for various purposes, such as agriculture, in order to radically solve food supply problems and to end poverty in all African countries.

Fourthly, there is a need to eliminate all restrictions on technology transfers for development activities of a socio-economic nature.

Fifthly, the African tragedy needs to be taken into account. Over the past centuries, we have suffered the pillaging of African material resources. Bear in mind the role that those resources played in the development of some countries.

Sixthly, our partners in the donor community should realize that in contributing to the financing of this partnership they are benefiting their own societies materially and socially. Reducing emigration or preventing it by legislative and administrative measures will not serve a purpose. Investing in development projects in the countries where emigration originates would help keep people in place and prevent mass migration to other countries. Seven, dealing with one of the most serious problems facing Africa: the brain drain of its talent towards the developed countries, due to a number of interlocking factors. Creating a favourable environment in Africa for African talent so that those people can play the role intended for them by their countries, which spend a great deal of money on their education, would be beneficial for NEPAD and would enable us to avoid untold losses and expenses.

Mr. Sardenberg (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation associates itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

My delegation also wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his two reports on the items we are discussing today — and yesterday — namely, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.

Since last year's report (A/58/352) and debate, some further progress has been achieved, both in the implementation of NEPAD and in the promotion of peace in Africa, as highlighted in the reports and acknowledged by many previous speakers.

Brazil would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who were responsible for those achievements, mainly African stakeholders, the Secretary-General and the United Nations system, as well as Africa's development partners. We wish to convey a special message of recognition and support to the African Union, its previous Chairman, President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, and its current Chairman, President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, and his African peers for their commitments to the advancement of NEPAD, in particular the establishment of the conditions for sustainable development by ensuring peace and security in the whole Continent.

In that connection, Brazil highly praises and welcomes the unequivocal determination of the African Union to resolve the crisis in Darfur, which we consider to be a laudable and timely act of African ownership and leadership.

In his report (A/59/285), as many delegations have stressed, the Secretary-General acknowledges that fewer countries in Africa are now suffering civil strife or conflict. That welcome development nonetheless takes place in the context of the perseverance of several situations of instability that must be adequately addressed, preferably by means of conflict-prevention or peacebuilding mechanisms aimed mainly at the root causes of the conflicts.

Providing for a common understanding of potentially risky situations that can be addressed in a peaceful manner is, in our view, a clear improvement in terms of building relations with the African continent, bearing in mind that post-conflict situations and internal turmoil can easily turn into new conflicts

if a number of measures and policies are not implemented in a timely fashion.

It is certainly a positive development that, today, there is a clear recognition that Africa, in partnership with the international community, has better equipped to manage — and preferably avoid — conflicts on the continent's soil. That is so, first of all, because democracy is highly valued on the continent and democratic African Governments are fully committed to encouraging their brothers and sisters to join the democratic world and share the dividends of peace and security in a democratic system. Through concerted efforts either by the African Union or by regional organizations, all corners of the continent are now under the close scrutiny of responsible African leaders who do not hesitate to provide their support for building peace and promoting democracy.

Nonetheless, for peace and democracy to be sustained, democratic Governments must be able to address the high expectations and legitimate demands of their peoples in terms of development, since both social and economic development and democracy are highly prized values on the continent, and since both are closely associated. Development and democracy must come hand in hand to the continent, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is the appropriate framework to provide them with the necessary impetus. The international community and all those who support NEPAD should devote equal attention and priority to both issues.

Secondly, conflicts can be managed or avoided, since many helpful assessments exist regarding remedies to be applied to different situations. After decades of trying to apply the same prescriptions to different maladies, the international community and Africans themselves are fully aware of best practices and specific hindrances. Economic and social management policies have to be developed in accordance with the needs of each country and each circumstance. Again, the partnership with African organizations provided by NEPAD is the best course of action to be followed.

As a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Brazil is now witnessing increasing efforts by Council members, together with the Secretariat, to develop multidisciplinary mandates for peacekeeping operations tailored to each situation. There is a long way to go before these operations can better address the need to properly manage the challenges of peace and security and the creation of a sustainable environment for development and long-term stability. However, as mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, the partnership that is being built between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council gives us all hope that we are on the right path.

Unfortunately, recent developments in Guinea-Bissau show us that, despite laudable efforts by the Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau to marshal increased international support — in particular financial and economic support — for that country, the resurgence of instability could not be avoided. Brazil regrets that the response of the international community to the many steps taken by the authorities of Guinea-Bissau towards democracy was not sufficient. The only possible solution must therefore be found through sustaining our efforts and fully implementing the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau concerning renewed support for that country, including by revising the mandate of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) and increasing the capabilities of the United Nations system in the country in coordination with increased bilateral assistance.

As mentioned yesterday by the representative of India (see A/59/PV.33), the India-Brazil-South Africa initiative has selected Guinea-Bissau as the first beneficiary of a programme of cooperation to be undertaken by the three countries. We are ready to start implementing this programme, and we would like other Member States to join us. Without urgent international support, Guinea-Bissau may not be able to surmount the current obstacles it faces in advancing in its transitional phase towards democracy and peace.

We highly appreciated the recent report prepared by the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa on South-South cooperation. Many of the initiatives taken by Brazil are listed in the document. Brazil is launching programmes in Africa, mainly together with Portuguese-speaking countries, that are closely linked to the priorities of NEPAD. Literacy and education; health, particularly in the area of prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS; job creation; agriculture; and science and technology: those are some of the areas covered by bilateral and multilateral programmes of cooperation, many of them conceived under the

auspices of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP).

Moreover, in 2004, CPLP countries will hold the fourth round of joint military exercises among the armed forces of all member States, five of which are African. We believe this is an important contribution to enhancing African capabilities regarding preparation and capacity-building for participation in peacekeeping operations. Brazil is strengthening its cooperation links with other African countries as well, particularly in agriculture and health. However, allow me to stress our understanding that the strongest ties between Brazil and Africa are still being developed in multilateral forums. By forging strong alliances with African countries in international negotiations, such as those conducted in the World Trade Organization and the World Health Organization, regarding, for instance, market access and drug licenses, Brazil believes we are actively supporting African efforts towards the implementation of NEPAD.

We fully recognize that efforts by the international community complement those taken at the national level. That is the reason we insist on the need for a free and more equitable multilateral trade system in order to generate the jobs and wealth that are essential for the development of countries in Africa, as well as in Latin America and parts of other continents.

Lastly, allow me to recall the initiative launched by President Lula and his counterparts from France, Chile and Spain, concerning the fight against hunger and poverty. Twenty-six African countries have joined the initiative and await its development. Eradicating food deficiencies and ending poverty are our main goals. As President Lula stated in September here in New York, African countries and peoples are the ones who will profit the most from the positive results we are expecting from this effort of the international community, an effort that has been embraced by 120 countries. Brazil is fully engaged in the campaign against hunger and poverty, which is the first of the Millennium Development Goals.

In conclusion, I wish to stress that the Brazilian delegation looks forward to the report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. We hope that the report will provide a major contribution to the ongoing discussion on ways of strengthening the United Nations through reform of its institutions and processes. We are sure that an expanded Security Council, with permanent members from Africa, Latin America and other regions, will increase the chances for African peace and development.

Mr. Moutari (Niger) (*spoke in French*): The delegation of Niger associates itself with the statements made yesterday by Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by Nigeria on behalf of the African Union. We echo the praise and appreciation expressed for the reports submitted to us under agenda items 38 and 46. Those reports clearly reflect the efforts made by Africa and its partners in conflict settlement, in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and in the struggle against malaria and also underscore the current and future challenges.

My delegation will not dwell on the content of the reports, as they have already been analysed in the statements to which I just referred. I will simply add that the decision taken to jointly discuss NEPAD, the causes of conflict in Africa and malaria seems to us extremely appropriate. I would like to say how pleased Niger is by the many timely initiatives being undertaken by the Secretary-General and his Special Adviser for Africa, Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, to promote NEPAD within the United Nations system and with Africa's partners. These initiatives should be encouraged through substantial financial support and the effective strengthening of the Office of the Special Adviser.

In spite of the progress achieved in the settlement of conflicts in Africa, six hotbeds of tension remain: in Côte d'Ivoire, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Burundi, in the Sudan, in Western Sahara and between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The countries and regional organizations of Africa have made commendable efforts to promote peace, through peace agreements or by establishing structures such as the Peace and Security Council, the Committee of the Wise and a continental early-warning body. The international community must strongly support these initiatives through appropriate contributions, both financial and logistical.

With respect to the conflict in Darfur, we welcome the support given by the United Nations, and particularly by the Security Council and its members, to the African Union mediation efforts under the aegis of President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria. However, we feel compelled to recall that humanitarian

assistance must be strengthened not only for the Darfur region but also for the Republic of Chad, whose enormous sacrifices are often forgotten as it bears the burden of over 200,000 refugees from the Sudan, which could endanger the internal stability that it has so painstakingly achieved.

Together with timely peace efforts, many African countries have endeavoured to eliminate the causes of conflict by seeking broader participation of their populations in public affairs, by consolidating and expanding democracy and good governance, guaranteeing the independence of the justice system and strengthening the capacities of their administrations. We believe that it would be fair for these countries in return to reap the dividends of democracy that are so often promised. For those countries, official development assistance should be increased and accompanied by a greater openness of the markets of the industrialized countries to their products, through the dismantling of tariff and non-tariff obstacles and through initiatives such as the African Growth and Opportunity Act. To supplement this North-South endeavour, it would be appropriate to more forcefully encourage South-South cooperation in fields as important to the implementation of NEPAD as education, water, agriculture and science and technology.

I take this opportunity to express Niger's heartfelt thanks to the developing countries that are already giving us considerable assistance each year in the form of admissions or scholarships to their educational institutions. Those admissions amount to more than 1,000 for a country such as the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and to hundreds for countries such as Algeria, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Mali, Morocco, Pakistan, Senegal and Tunisia, to mention just a few. Other countries, such as the People's Republic of China, give us considerable support, inter alia by helping us in our efforts to provide drinking water for all. Those few examples demonstrate — if demonstration were needed — that South-South cooperation has enormous potential that still remains to be mobilized and placed at the service of NEPAD.

Yesterday, the representative of India described two initiatives that seemed to us particularly worthy of support. One relates to the linkage of 53 African countries through satellite and fibre-optic networks. The other relates to the transfer of technology to Western Africa. In addition, the tripartite initiative of India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) deserves to be supported and made more widespread.

Another sector that could help give impetus to the implementation of NEPAD is the mobilization of African expatriates who, according to some statistics, are already providing over $43 billion to the continent. In addition to these financial resources, their talents can and should be channelled appropriately towards the economic development of Africa.

In conclusion, I would like to make three comments that relate to points made in the report. I believe these are of particular importance. First, the United Nations should have additional financial resources, because the lack of financing limits United Nations action at the very time when the Organization is called upon to undertake a growing number of joint programmes and new initiatives.

Secondly, the United Nations system should make use of existing coordination mechanisms at all levels to strengthen the coherence of the support given to NEPAD.

Thirdly, development partners must create an international environment that is conducive to the growth and development of Africa and ensure that trade, assistance and debt policies are consistent, which is vital so that the African countries can at last benefit directly from international decisions in those fields.

Mr. Stanislaus (Grenada): Progress in the implementation of and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as described in the report of the Secretary-General (A/59/206), is as exciting as it is timely.

The New Partnership recalls what Victor Hugo wrote more than a century ago: "There is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come". If this idea with respect to Africa's development is translated into reality, the twenty-first century could very well become the century of Africa. That presupposes, however, that the requirements of the Partnership will be fulfilled and that the commitments made will be honoured, based upon the following precepts. First, the primary responsibility for NEPAD's ownership is vested in Africa. Secondly, the developed partners, especially those countries that have had a historical and economic involvement in Africa from which they have profited for many centuries, must now "come up to the plate and bat" for the development of the continent.

Thirdly, peace and security are vital to Africa's development, and in that connection Africa bears primary responsibility for assuring that the causes of conflict are mitigated. Fourthly, the African Peer Review Mechanism affords the best hope for the aforementioned by ensuring that a culture of prevention takes precedence over a culture of reaction. Fifthly, improved coordination and collaboration among United Nations organs and agencies, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the International Labour Organization, to mention a few, are indispensable to NEPAD's success. Sixthly, and most important, the Millennium Development Goals can serve as a blueprint for Africa's development.

NEPAD cannot be promulgated successfully without some passing reference to the history and early civilization of Africa, much of which has been lost to antiquity, through no fault of Africa's. Nevertheless, since the past is the best prophet of the future, NEPAD must take into account the wealth, wisdom and womanhood potential of Mother Africa. This can provide a solid foundation and can be the lodestar in the new development partnership arrangement.

In light of the above, my delegation can envisage Africa as the breadbasket of the world if its potential is developed and utilized properly. Add to this Africa's geographical position as the most centrally located of all the continents, and we have the makings of an awakened giant with limitless possibilities.

As part of the separated brethren of the African diaspora, brought about by the forced dispersion of a people with whom my delegation has a common ancestry, a common history, and a common struggle, my delegation remains excited about the success of NEPAD. Even with Grenada's very limited resources and its present heavy rebuilding responsibilities due to the ravages of Hurricane Ivan, Grenada pledges its support for NEPAD in whatever way possible.

Returning to the theme of "an idea whose time has come", I want to suggest that the time has come for the Caribbean Community to forge a loose structural arrangement here at the United Nations with the African Group. We have so much in common by reason of consanguinity, affinity and spiritual relationship that we can no longer afford to let the opportunity for closer association go by.

Let me conclude with the inspirational words uttered by a great pan-African Jamaican leader, Mr. Marcus Mosiah Garvey, here in New York at the beginning of the twentieth century, during a meeting of what was then the United Negro Improvement Association, where he said, "Up you mighty people. Climb Jacob's ladder, higher, higher, higher."

Mr. Mahiga (United Republic of Tanzania): At the outset I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports contained in documents A/59/206 and A/59/261. We find the information contained in the reports very informative and valuable.

We would also like to associate ourselves with the statements made by Nigeria, on behalf of African Union, and Qatar, on behalf of the Group 77 and China.

I also take this opportunity to commend the United Nations for its positive response in the implementation of activities in Africa related to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Tanzania recognizes the significance of NEPAD's development framework in complementing the political vision of the African Union, as well as its institutional architecture. NEPAD underscores the importance of economic development in addressing some of the underlying causes of conflicts in Africa and the necessity of sustainable social and economic development in order for peace and stability to prevail in Africa. It was therefore a logical and necessary decision by African leaders to make NEPAD an integral part of the African Union.

In the context of the ongoing socio-economic reforms and the Government's Development Vision 2025, Tanzania has drafted priority programmes for promoting and implementing the NEPAD agenda. Tanzania has integrated NEPAD into its national policies and development framework through institutional arrangements to manage the process at sectoral and national levels and through national and regional development programmes and projects. There are five pivotal sectoral committees, two of which are related to peace, security and good governance, while three are in the areas of infrastructure and social and economic development. These sectoral committees are coordinated by the President's Office in order to

provide NEPAD with the needed technical attention and political guidance.

Consistent with its political and public reforms at home to institutionalize democracy, good governance, transparency and accountability, Tanzania joined the African Peer Review Mechanism on 8 July 2004. This decision was announced at the Summit of African Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa. Tanzania believes that, in the spirit of sovereign equality and mutual trust, the Peer Review Mechanism is a very useful tool for consolidating the values of democracy and respect for human rights in Africa as a basis for development, as well as for consolidating peace, stability and solidarity in Africa.

In the areas of infrastructure, trade, industry and related activities, Tanzania has given priority to NEPAD programmes and projects which complement national development priorities and promote regional integration and cooperation in Southern and East Africa. Such projects should enhance regional integration; contribute to employment, income generation and wealth creation; reflect higher regional content and geographical balance; consolidate peace and enhance regional harmony; and fulfil basic social needs and poverty reduction objectives.

It should be noted that while integrating and implementing the NEPAD agenda, Tanzania has also integrated the objective of achieving the Millennium Development Goals at national levels with the support of NEPAD programmes in areas such as poverty eradication, fighting HIV/AIDS and malaria eradication.

In its resolution 58/237 of 23 December 2003, entitled "2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa", the General Assembly took note of the plan of action on the Roll Back Malaria initiative, which was adopted at the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of States and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held in Abuja in the year 2000, and which is contained in the Abuja Declaration.

The resolution called upon the international community to continue to support the Roll Back Malaria partner organizations, including the World Health Organization and UNICEF, as vital complementary sources of support for the efforts of malaria-endemic countries to combat the disease.

In Africa, malaria is the second largest killer of our people, especially children, taking more lives than HIV/AIDS. Malaria is the leading cause of outpatient and inpatient health services attendance for all ages and the leading cause of death in both children and adults in all regions of Tanzania. In Tanzania, the disease is believed to be directly or indirectly responsible for about 16 million malaria episodes and 125,000 deaths per year, of which 70,000 to 80,000 are children under five years of age.

The onset and spread of HIV/AIDS has compounded the fight against malaria. Malaria further weakens the immune system and, as a result, people infected by HIV are more susceptible to malaria. Children who have acquired the infection from mothers are the most vulnerable and succumb to death faster. The combination of malaria, HIV and tuberculosis infection is lethal and ought to be attacked in an integrated manner by Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

The President took the Chair.

In implementing Millennium Development Goal 6, and in the spirit of the Abuja Declaration, Tanzania has been in the forefront of the war on malaria. We have waived taxes on mosquito nets and other products for the containment and rolling back of malaria. We have received the support of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which has enabled Tanzania to subsidize insecticide-impregnated mosquito nets that have significantly reduced infection among pregnant women and babies. However, we have learned that all those efforts can only succeed if people avail themselves of those opportunities and the international community redoubles its efforts to assist the malaria-affected countries such as Tanzania. In that regard, an advocacy and awareness campaign to fight malaria is an important undertaking that deserves serious consideration by us all.

The importance of developing effective vaccines and new medicines to prevent and treat malaria and the need for further research can never be overemphasized. We reiterate the call by the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session to pharmaceutical companies to take note of the increasing need for effective combination treatments for malaria, particularly in Africa, and to form alliances and partnerships to help ensure that all people at risk have access to prompt, affordable, quality treatment.

Finally, Tanzania commends and appreciates the international response garnered by United Nations efforts to combat HIV/AIDS and malaria. The Global Fund is also a useful mechanism, but as we all know, the resources thus far made available to it lag far behind the needs and challenges posed by those two scourges. We urge and encourage deliberate and bold initiatives, spearheaded by the United Nations, to invest more resources for research in curative medicines and preventive vaccines for both HIV/AIDS and malaria. The world has dedicated scientists who only require concerted political encouragement and resources to bring their talents to bear in liberating the world from those serious threats to human security and sustainable development.

Mr. Gaspar Martins (Angola): We thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report contained in document A/59/206, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: second consolidated report on progress in implementation and international support". It is our view that that report provides useful insight into the progress of the implementation of the agenda item under consideration.

We associate ourselves with the statements delivered by the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Union, and by the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We all know that the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is an African initiative that needs to be supported by the international community. We thank the United Nations for the steps taken so far towards the implementation of NEPAD, particularly the adoption of General Assembly resolution 57/7, which gave special momentum to the process. It is that kind of process and impulse that African countries expect to see in the years ahead.

Though it provides us with important information on the actions taken so far, the Secretary-General's report clearly recognizes that a lot more still needs to be done. African countries are determined to gradually achieve policy coherence in the implementation of NEPAD. Above all, we are all making an effort to align budgetary expenditures with NEPAD priorities.

Angola recognizes and commends the efforts undertaken by the Special Adviser on Africa, Under-Secretary-General Ibrahim Gambari, and his Office. We hope the Office of the Special Adviser will be well provided with the adequate resources — both financial and human — in order to carry out its mandate promptly and efficiently. Indeed, we expect no less.

We think that the United Nations agencies should continue to play a major role in coordinating and mobilizing international support to NEPAD. We thank those agencies already working with NEPAD for their collaboration with and support for activities that give high priority to the implementation of that important initiative. We would especially like to encourage continued UNDP support for NEPAD institutions and for its secretariat, in particular, during the elaboration of its programme of work and the start-up phase of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

Angola commends the excellent work of the Economic Commission for Africa in strengthening the African Peer Review Mechanism, which constitutes an important step in the establishment of the institutional framework for mutual accountability and policy coherence in Africa. Angola is proud to have recently joined the African Peer Review Mechanism and we seize this opportunity to appeal to all African countries to do likewise.

In its conclusions and recommendations, the report clearly recognized that there had been minor progress by African countries in overcoming the enormous difficulties they face in implementing NEPAD. A strengthened partnership with the international community is needed in order to meet the minimum goals and to give NEPAD a major impetus. One should not forget that NEPAD goals and objectives are the same as those set forth in the Millennium Declaration. Their particularity rests on the African reality. As the report further states, development partners of Africa need to give practical expression to their support for the continent. We are glad to have heard the representative of the European Union yesterday, stating that the Union is very much on track in increasing its official development assistance to 0.39 per cent of its members' gross national incomes in 2006, as part of longer-term efforts to raise official development assistance contributions to 0.7 per cent of gross national income. We call on other developed countries to take similar actions.

Angola has adopted a poverty reduction strategy paper aimed at improving the macroeconomic framework and the structural and social policies to foster growth and reduce poverty. The Ministry of

Planning is the focal point for matters regarding the implementation of NEPAD at the national level, and it is sparing no effort to honour its responsibilities when it comes to the implementation of NEPAD objectives. Angola stands ready to continue its participation in regional and subregional programmes that will enhance the capacity of African countries to better respond to the challenges of our initiative, which is a requisite for fostering peace stability and economic growth on the continent.

We support the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report and we will work closely with all partners in order to bring complete success to NEPAD and peace to Africa.

The Secretary-General's report contained in document A/59/285, on implementation of the recommendations contained in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, states that armed conflicts remain a major cause of death in our continent. We commend the efforts made by African countries and regional organizations, in particular, in dealing with the scourge of conflict and in promoting peace negotiations and brokering peace agreements. The establishment of the African Peace and Security Council and the Committee of the Wise, as well as an early-warning system, seem to be the right and timely solution.

The recommendations included in the report clearly reflect the current status of the problems and constraints that the majority of countries are still facing today. Six years after the publication of the Secretary-General's first assessment of the causes of conflict in Africa (A/52/871), we are glad to note the substantial reduction of conflicts. However, ongoing conflicts still deserve our keen and special attention.

The report recommends that special attention be given to other potential sources of conflict. We concur that there is a need to address the challenges faced by young people in order to prevent new conflicts, or setbacks in countries in which war has ended. In Angola, the Government has started a special programme to address those problems. Last month, the country held a national conference dedicated to examining such difficult problems.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our development partners for their support in the fight to roll back malaria in Africa. We hope that the fight to find a cure for malaria and other endemic diseases will achieve better results in the years to come. We hope and believe that, given the efforts, commitment and political will of African countries and the support of the international community, we can win this battle.

Mr. Toro Jiménez (Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela fully supports the statement made by the representative of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We would like, however, to make a few comments regarding our Government's position on this important agenda item.

The report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/59/285 underlines — and we welcome this in a spirit of solidarity — the political measures taken and the initiatives adopted by the African countries and organizations in implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

In recognizing the efforts being made by the African Union in support of peace and security in the region, our country reaffirms the importance of multilateralism as the only tool for tackling the major challenges confronting our peoples in their struggle to achieve political self-determination and to overcome hunger and poverty. Such challenges cannot be resolved through the pernicious use, from afar, by powerful States and international organizations, of a great variety of unilateral measures and modalities that reflect private economic and political interests. These interests disregard the fact that millions of human beings living in extreme poverty are excluded and subjected to a global economic model that is proving to be unsustainable for human beings.

As can be seen from the report of the Secretary-General, peace of Africa is threatened by the involvement of State and non-State agents, intermediaries and individual companies in the service of the arms traffickers of the countries of the North. Our country joins with the Secretary-General's appeal for the urgent adoption of measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in arms.

The African Union has set an example for the international community through its decision to confront the conflicts of the region. It is with interest and support that we view home-grown African solutions to these conflicts. Our country has been resolute in expressing its support for the struggle

against hunger and poverty and for the urgent creation of conditions necessary for the sustainable development of peoples.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela offers its help and cooperation for the enhancement and continuation of all assistance programmes and cooperation activities aimed at facilitating active participation so as to improve the economic and social conditions of the peoples of Africa. That is vital for the consolidation of peace and security in the continent.

At the Monterrey Summit, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela proposed the establishment of an international humanitarian fund. This year, we took an important step in that direction, contributing seed capital of $30 million for cooperation with poor countries of the Latin American, Caribbean and African regions with a view to supporting the efforts of those countries to seek ways and means of confronting poverty and of promoting social and human development. This is intended, specifically, to address the financial shortfalls facing the poor countries, so that their people can receive assistance for natural disasters, pandemics, post-conflict situations and widespread famine — phenomena that endanger the poorest sectors.

Mr. Chidyausiku (Zimbabwe): I would like at the outset to commend you, Mr. President, for the able manner in which you have been guiding our work during this session. My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the African Union, as well as with that of the representative of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Zimbabwe is pleased to participate in this assessment the past year's progress made in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and in the consideration of the causes of conflicts and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. Both sub-items are the subjects of excellent reports to the Assembly by the Secretary-General, contained in documents A/59/206 and A/59/285, respectively. The joint consideration of these two sub-items underscores the intrinsic link between peace and development and the urgent need to initiate a dual approach to the challenge Africa needs to face.

The founding document of NEPAD highlights the fact that it is the new agenda for the renewal of the African continent, based on African ownership and leadership. NEPAD is a comprehensive socio-economic renewal programme that is anchored on the three interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development — economic development, social development and environmental protection. NEPAD's primary objectives are to accelerate the eradication of poverty and to place African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path to high economic growth and sustainable development. The goals African countries seek to achieve through NEPAD are those of the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals. The NEPAD process deepens ownership by African countries of their development agenda and also provides a framework for action at the national, regional and international levels.

Despite the progress made by African countries in several areas in the implementation of NEPAD in the past year, Zimbabwe concurs with the Secretary-General's report that international support should entail more aid, debt relief, and foreign investment and trade opportunities. International support should involve greater consistency in external policies so that advances on one front are not undercut by lags on another.

It is vital for development partners to ensure that their aid and trade policies are complementary. Zimbabwe welcomes numerous commitments and initiatives of its development partners, notably by the Group of Eight (G-8) and other bilateral arrangements. However, international action is too dissipated. There is a need for better coherence in the actions of these numerous players as well as an urgent need to bridge the gap between political undertaking and development financing. Zimbabwe also welcomes the fact that the Tokyo International Conference on African Development attaches great importance to NEPAD's role as a reference framework for Africa's development.

Although Africa has witnessed an increase in official development assistance, it remains far too small, as compared to the levels of the 1990s. Africa should not rely on official development assistance alone; Zimbabwe believes that improving market access for Africa's agricultural and non-agricultural goods is the key to its ability to finance development. This is a matter of priority. Developed countries should

phase out subsidies to agricultural products and remove other trade barriers for African exports, and in particular, remove non-tariff barriers to products of interest to African countries.

The Secretary-General's report concludes that improved coherence promises to be a virtuous link in the cycle of increased and effective aid, reformed trade policies and debt relief by developed countries towards Africa. The report also takes note of African Governments that are seeking to gradually align their budgetary spending with NEPAD practice. However, this is a very slow process, since most African countries face severe fiscal constraints and are bound by budgetary agreements negotiated with external financial institutions.

NEPAD bears the hope of the rebirth of the African continent. What Africa needs today is not a diagnosis of the causes of underdevelopment or prescriptive advice, but a strong helping hand from the international community to ensure NEPAD's success, especially through enhanced official development assistance provided without conditionalities, the redemption of pledges to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Trust Fund and the provision of aid without any strings attached.

Zimbabwe greatly appreciates the assistance provided to Africa by the United Nations specialized agencies in the areas of peace and security, poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, governance and infrastructure development. However, much more needs to be done in support of NEPAD to strengthen the capacity of regional economic communities, the NEPAD secretariat and the African Union Commission. With international support through enhanced official development assistance, increased investment, a durable solution to the external debt burden and unhindered market access, the objective of integrating African countries into the global economy and the goals of durable peace and sustainable development can certainly be realized.

Finally, Zimbabwe welcomes the work being done by the recently established Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, currently headed by Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, whose mandate includes coordinating global advocacy in support of NEPAD, coordinating all reports to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on NEPAD, and following up on the recommendations of global conferences and summits related to Africa. We hope that the Office will be given the necessary financial and human resources support in order to enable it to discharge its mandate more effectively.

I wish now to turn to agenda item 38 (b), "Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa". I once more underscore the inextricable link between peace and development that has been eloquently elaborated in the Secretary-General's report. Causes of conflicts are multiple; however, poverty and marginalization remain the key issues.

The complexity of the conflict in Africa warrants the involvement of a number of players in conflict resolution, including regional and subregional organizations. Zimbabwe commends the work of the African Union and subregional organizations. The role of the Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Southern African Development Community and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development deserve our appreciation and need concerted support to strengthen that capacity in the prevention and management of conflicts.

No assessment of Africa's situation can ignore the numerous conflicts that are mortgaging the continent's future growth and development. Building lasting peace is a long-term undertaking, to the success of which no effort must be spared. This is an era in which humankind has yet to find a way to save itself from such urgent problems as the scandal of poverty and exclusion, the tragedy of conflicts and humanitarian disasters, the ravages of HIV/AIDS and related infectious diseases, threats to the environment, the impact of the digital divide and the perils of terrorism. The list goes on. The promotion of sustainable development in Africa will remain illusory as long as conflicts continue to ravage our continent.

African leaders have, therefore, established the Peace and Security Council as a mechanism to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts in Africa. My delegation calls for the establishment of a strategic partnership between the United Nations Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to ensure the complementarity of efforts.

Conflict and development are incompatible. African countries must work together and use the mechanism within NEPAD to prevent and resolve armed conflict and bring political stability to Africa.

Conflict remains a serious obstacle to development because it wastes vital resources; and long-term consequences such as refugees, internally displaced persons, landmines and the proliferation of small arms often exacerbate conflicts. Also, the proliferation of illicit arms remains a source of continued instability in Africa, as articulated in the Secretary-General's report.

In conclusion, my delegation agrees with the Secretary-General's report that, although there should be African ownership of the African development process, international partnership also has an important role to play in extending comprehensive and integrated assistance to African countries. African development can be achieved only by the concerted efforts of Africa and its development partners.

Mr. Shacham (Israel): Israel welcomes the second consolidated report on progress in implementation of and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The report comprehensively outlines the progress that is being made on this important global issue. Israel appreciates all the work that was invested in the report, which details the actions taken by African countries themselves, the responses and contributions of the international community and the actions taken by the United Nations system. It offers a very useful analysis of both the successes and the challenges implicit in this joint endeavour, and thus acts as a record of achievement, as well as a blueprint for further action.

Israel welcomes the commitment of the United Nations to strengthen collaboration and coordination among its components in order to provide the necessary support for the effective implementation of NEPAD, and endorses the recommendations as specified in the report.

Once again, Israel wishes to reiterate its strong support for the actions taken by the African Union itself in its efforts to allow the troubled continent to rise above its difficult past. The African-led, -owned, and -managed initiatives provide clear examples of how countries and regions relying on their own energy can help to harness their potential to pursue development. The short-term priorities in infrastructure outlined by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee are worthy goals, and Israel hopes that they provide the stepping stones for future projects. The progress that has been made in the water and sanitation sectors is particularly important, as this can only serve to protect the continent's vulnerable health situation, as well as help to nourish its population.

Israel commends the progress that has been made in moving the African Peer Review Mechanism process forward and is pleased to note that the work programme and the rules of procedure for the African peer review panel of eminent personalities were adopted in February in Kigali, Rwanda, and that a separate secretariat and a trust fund have been established for the Mechanism. The fact that the number of countries that have signed on to the Mechanism has now risen to 23 highlights the fact that our efforts are paying off and that African nations have a real desire to help to realize the potential of NEPAD by acting on its promises — good governance, democracy, peace and security, human rights and sound economic management. Israel, of course, encourages other countries to join the Mechanism.

Israel would also like especially to note its satisfaction that science and technology is a NEPAD area of priority, and it hopes that more effort will be made by African countries, the international community and the United Nations system to move forward with the possibilities that that offers. Israel has always believed that it is through science and technology that countries can pull themselves up into new strata of achievements and standards of living. It is through education and training that that is possible at all. In this context, Israel is very proud of, and has high hopes for, the contributions that are being made by its own Centre for International Cooperation, also known as MASHAV.

Israel has a long tradition of profound relations with Africa. From the late 1950s, while it was itself still a developing country, Israel built development partnerships with the newly independent States of sub-Saharan Africa, exchanging and providing information and know-how in food security, the empowerment of women, education and health. Our MASHAV programme carries on this tradition, its basic orientation rooted in our own development experience. In 2003, trainees from over 30 African countries came to Israel to gain new skills to take back to their own countries. In addition, Israel held on-the-spot courses in 14 different African countries in such fields as agriculture, community development, medicine and public health.

Over the past year, the trauma and emergency units constructed by MASHAV at the Komfo Anokye Hospital in Ghana became fully operational, and local staff were trained in the maintenance and running of these facilities. Other MASHAV projects in Africa this year include a cancer treatment centre in Mauritania, the Kibwezi Agricultural Demonstration Farm in Kenya, the Ogongo Drip Irrigation Demonstration Centre in Namibia, the Fossil Valley Agricultural Demonstration Project in Senegal and the Hatcliff Drip and Micro-Irrigation Demonstration Plot in Zimbabwe.

Israel looks forward to making further additions to that list, and to working with African countries, and countries from elsewhere, to help Africa help itself.

We are committed to working together with the international community to continue to aid in ensuring NEPAD's success and in overcoming the challenges facing it. In addition to its aid and training programmes, Israel also actively supports international initiatives, such as the World Bank's International Development Association programmes and the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative for debt reduction. Israel has already forgiven the debt of a number of African countries, and debt relief to additional States is expected in the near future.

As a nation of barely 6 million citizens, which itself carries a heavy financial burden arising from a constant need to defend its very existence, Israel's per capita contribution to Africa's future is among the most significant in the world. The reason is simple. As a State comprising a people that has undergone and overcome immense historic challenges, Israel feels that history has taught us that the challenges of nation-building are never insurmountable. So if, in our own humble way, we can be of assistance to other nations striving to realize their national potential, and if, by diverting some of our own scarce resources, we can help to fulfil their national goals, then we ourselves as a nation can only be strengthened.

The President (*spoke in French*): I call on the observer of the Holy See.

Archbishop Migliore (Holy See): My delegation is glad to have been given the opportunity to speak on this item — progress in the implementation of and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The context is the duty of the international community, especially the more powerful countries, to redress the economic imbalances that penalize Africa and to help the continent to resolve its regional and national conflicts in a way that goes beyond the mere discussion of their causes. Conflicts in Africa are well known. The reasons for them, however, are complex, and the motives of the relevant actors can be traced not only to African States or factions but also to other regions and interests beyond Africa.

My delegation recognizes that, with regard to peacebuilding, common security, the prevention of conflicts, peacemaking and peacekeeping, Africa is doing more and more, notwithstanding the many adversities that it faces and its lack of means to overcome them. The report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report (A/59/285) on the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa gives a good overview of the results of the effective ongoing political and military cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and subregional agencies, such as the Economic Community of West African States, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development and many other organizations.

The management of conflicts in Western Africa also deserves special mention. The current trend in harmonization at the international, regional and subregional levels is not simply a measure of the success achieved by the members of the African Union; there have also been valuable lessons for solving crises in other parts of the world and for the reform of the United Nations itself.

At the national level, it must be acknowledged that there are many examples of good governance, rule of law and the fight against corruption under the impetus of the African Peer Review Mechanism, the African self-monitoring mechanism established by the African Union in order to promote NEPAD, to which a number of countries have already adhered. This management of Africa's affairs by Africans themselves will allow important advances in the provision of basic necessities, such as clean water, food, housing, access to health care and reduction in the spread of malaria and HIV, not to mention a safe environment in which to live, work and bring a family into the world. Parallel to regional cooperation for peace, the helpful role that the peer review process can play in promoting sound national policies and practices exemplifies and sets a precedent for other regions of the world.

The adoption of the "July Package" by the World Trade Organization (WTO), which reopened the negotiations of the Doha Development Round, is to be welcomed, especially since it has taken on board some of the difficulties expressed by African nations. The realization of economic policies suitable for Africa, for the well-being of urban and rural families alike and for the preservation of African values is surely an urgent international obligation. And so it is regrettable that the recent meeting of the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, as well as the meeting of the Group of Eight (G-8) Ministers of Finance that preceded the Board meetings, failed to agree on the total cancellation of debt of the 27 poorest countries. At least it can be said that consensus was reached for the first time in history on the necessity of eliminating such debt.

On another front, management of natural resources deserves further attention, both from Africans and from the international community. As conflicts come to an end, the durability of peace will depend greatly on the capacity of each Government to take control of its natural resources and manage the wealth of the nation in a transparent manner that will benefit all the people. Moreover, the international community should increase its support for mechanisms that prevent the introduction of war-fuelling products into international markets. In this regard, the Kimberley Process on the trafficking of diamonds is both a significant achievement and an important precedent that should be extended to other strategic or high-value products.

Much still remains to be done to rebuild trust among the peoples and ethnic groups in each country, so that a new framework of solidarity can pave the way towards development. Evidence of the recent active role of Africans themselves in the resolution of conflicts shows that African solutions to African problems have started to emerge. The rich patrimony of friendship and family solidarity in Africa could, if allowed to flourish, also play a role in solving conflicts and building peace. The promotion of greater cooperation among religions in Africa could also be a decisive factor in peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

My delegation sincerely hopes that the collaboration for peace undertaken by the United Nations, the African Union and other regional and subregional groups, as well as the NEPAD initiative, will become a true alliance, founded on a common sense of responsibility. Africa's present difficulties, which are not any different from what other regions of the world have also undergone, should be seen as a window of opportunity to create a new paradigm of global solidarity.

The United Nations should seize this chance to demonstrate that it is indeed a family of nations, ready to assist those in need.

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/195 of 17 December 1999, I now call on the observer of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Mr. Bhagwat-Singh (International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources): The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), adopted by the African Union (AU) as its programme, seeks to lift Africa out of poverty and steer it towards economic growth and sustainable development. The programme is anchored in the determination of Africans to confront underdevelopment and marginalization in an increasingly globalized world. The NEPAD also promotes the building of partnerships that will give Africa a chance to participate in the global economy.

In order to fulfil its vision, NEPAD has outlined and developed several action plans, especially in the areas of agriculture, infrastructure and the environment. The Environment Action Plan (EAP) of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD is a comprehensive plan that seeks to address the environmental challenges currently facing the continent while combating poverty. The Action Plan was developed under the guidance of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, together with the NEPAD secretariat. The process involved consultations with a wide range of stakeholders.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) is keen to support NEPAD, especially through the Environment Action Plan at the regional and subregional levels. The IUCN commends the United Nations for its support to NEPAD through United Nations General Assembly resolutions 57/2 and 57/7. The IUCN urges continued support and encouragement, particularly to the Secretariat of NEPAD, which is facilitating the partnership for sustainable development across Africa, even though currently overstretched. The IUCN also

notes the work of the secretariat of the Environment Component of NEPAD, set up by the Government of Senegal, and commends its efforts to further the NEPAD Environment Action Plan.

The Environment Action Plan is a practical vehicle for conservation and sustainable development, which, like the wider NEPAD programmes, seeks to involve the subregional economic commissions in the implementation and coordination of the Plan. The regional economic commissions are seen as effective vehicles for the development and integration of the aspirations of the African continent, and calls have been made for the strengthening of their coordination and implementation role. To this end, and with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the IUCN will work together with the regional economic commissions in the development of subregional environment action plans.

The IUCN supports the concept of subregional environment action plans as a sensible mechanism to foster sustainable development through environmental awareness and action. We hope that the United Nations system will continue to support this process and to raise awareness of its value through such agencies as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), especially through its Regional Office for Africa, and the series of publications in the Africa Environment Outlook report. Other United Nations agencies and specialized programmes are also encouraged to continue and expand their support of NEPAD and the Environment Action Plan.

The IUCN would like to see more involvement of all African stakeholders — namely, Governments, the private sector and civil society in general, including women's organizations and community-based organizations — in NEPAD's implementation. In this context, the IUCN would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Professor Wangari Maathai for her Nobel Peace Prize and for demonstrating what women and community-based groups, such as the Green Belt movement, can do for Africa's environment and people and for peace in broader terms. The Nobel Laureate spoke eloquently of her work earlier this month at a meeting of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Academy of Environmental Law in Nairobi, and we look forward to welcoming her to the third World Conservation Congress in Bangkok next month.

Lastly, the IUCN would also like to encourage bilateral and multilateral aid agencies to further increase their support for NEPAD. We look forward to working with the Millennium Development Goals five-year review process, the follow up to the Financing for Development Initiative, and the Group of Seven (G-7) process as opportunities to manifest this increased support.

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/2 of 19 October 1994, I now call on the observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Mr. Gospodinov (Observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies): Thank you for giving me the floor and allowing the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to address this item. As we see on our television screens every day, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has never been out of Africa, for there is so much humanitarian work to be done there, including in Chad, as my colleague from Niger just mentioned a few minutes ago.

On the subject of today's theme, partnerships for development and for social and economic progress in Africa are a very high priority for us. Moreover, it is our wish to intensify our cooperative work with the United Nations family in the period ahead. We also wish to intensify our cooperation with NEPAD and its processes, with the African Union, and with other regional organizations. We believe the work done in Africa in recent years, especially through the growth of NEPAD and the creation of the African Union, demonstrates an African vitality that the whole international community should welcome and support.

We say this because working throughout Africa with our network has provided us with both the knowledge and the talent to support what Governments are doing. Our national members brought their programming and priorities to the attention of the United Nations General Assembly in 2000 after their fifth Pan-African Conference in Ouagadougou. My purpose today is to inform you of the work done to consolidate those priorities at the sixth Pan-African Conference, held in September this year in Algiers.

It is our hope that sincere interest and willingness to go forward, as evidenced by the Secretary-General's report A/59/206, will be matched by a readiness to work with African communities and civil society

leadership in the design and implementation of programmes that meet real African priorities. This will, we believe, significantly improve the prospects of Africa achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The African National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, meeting in Ouagadougou in 2000, committed to four basic objectives. In brief, these were: making a major difference to the health of vulnerable people by adopting the health initiative; massively scaling up their response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic; making food security a strategic priority for the decade; and enhancing the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' capacity to function as auxiliaries to their Governments in the humanitarian field.

Four years later, at their meeting in Algiers in September 2004, our African members adopted a plan of action to take the Ouagadougou commitments forward, and to build effective partnerships with other national and international actors.

The Algiers Plan of Action brings together the Ouagadougou commitments with the objectives set by the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals.

The Plan itself will soon be circulated to all member States and organizations concerned, and will be introduced to the United Nations system. We are also planning a special briefing session with all African Permanent Missions and other interested organizations to ensure that they are aware of the assets that our movement brings to this important set of strategic tasks. In the meantime, I shall elaborate on those points most relevant to the United Nations for the benefit of this debate.

In Algiers, our African member Societies expressed their great concern at the increase in the number of natural disasters and conflicts on their continent and the huge crises faced because of food insecurity, HIV/AIDS and other growing health threats. They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening their capacities, and in particular their volunteer base. They appreciated the partnerships available with Governments, the African Union, United Nations agencies, civil society and corporations. They also expressed their concern for the people affected by the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, and their solidarity with, and respect for, the efforts of the Sudanese Red Crescent Society.

Partnership opportunities and shared objectives framed by the conjunction of the Millennium Development Goals with our own strategy were a major topic at the Algiers conference. We were very pleased with the energy and dedication provided by the representatives of the United Nations system, specialized agencies and the African Union at the conference. We saw, for example, that the World Food Programme (WFP) is keen to support Africa in the commitment given to our movement when Mr. James Morris addressed the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in December 2003 in Geneva. We are now engaged in a detailed discussion with the WFP in order to improve the links between our National Societies and the WFP.

Similar discussions are under way with Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and are also starting with the World Health Organization (WHO). We intend vigorously to pursue partnership opportunities, which connect Governments, agencies and others devoted to progress in this region, with the African Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and their community outreach structures. The results of those partnerships are already visible: our network has now vaccinated more than 140 million children in 29 countries against measles, and WHO reports show that the incidence of measles in Africa has dropped by 47 per cent since the start of our vaccination initiative four years ago.

We intend to build these opportunities to achieve results through very close cooperation with regional and subregional organizations. Our partners see how our unique status as an international organization, combined with the government auxiliary status of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, builds a framework for progress and benefit for the most vulnerable. This is, we believe, vital for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. But their achievement will depend on the degree to which communities and the vulnerable people themselves become involved in the design of the programmes and in implementing them. This is essential — as the Secretary-General himself has recognized.

It is particularly opportune that we are bringing the outcomes of the Pan-African Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference to the attention of the General Assembly now. The documents, which will be disbursed in the near future, illustrate the strength we have acquired within the United Nations and its system

of specialized agencies. It is a strength that has been significantly facilitated by the decision of the United Nations General Assembly exactly ten years ago today to grant observer status to the IFRC. That decision, adopted at the thirty-eighth plenary meeting on 19 October 1994 and contained in resolution number 49/2, has created opportunities for many partnerships that have made a real difference in the lives of the most vulnerable people. Together we can save and are saving lives. It is in that context that we are speaking to you today.

Permit me, Mr. President, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary, to thank the General Assembly once again for its decision, and to express our hope that in the next ten years we will mark even better and more fruitful cooperation with both Governments and the United Nations. We stand ready to play our part globally and locally. We will continue to develop the African priorities as identified in Ouagadougou, and taken forward in Algiers.

We trust that the Federation's Algiers Plan of Action will be seen as a valuable addition to our joint work and an essential tool for all of those who sincerely wish to see Africa rise above poverty and despair, and build prosperity amidst real human dignity.

In conclusion, Sir, I would like to go back one week, when the Nobel Committee decided to award a brave Kenyan environmentalist this year's Nobel Peace Prize. She plants trees. If we will follow this example and, through our partnerships, plant a tree, build a school, save a life, or help a child in Africa, then our discussion today will have significant meaning.

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/18, of 10 November 1978, and decision 53/453, of 18 December 1998, I now call on the observer for the International Organization of la Francophonie.

Mr. Bouabid (International Organization of la Francophonie) (*spoke in French*): This is the first time I have taken the floor at this session. Allow me, therefore, to convey to you, Sir, on behalf of the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF) and its Secretary General, President Abdou Diouf, heartfelt congratulations on your election to the presidency of this important session of the General Assembly.

The International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF) is happy again, this year, to speak to the General Assembly and discuss the agenda item concerning the New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support.

We first wish to renew our solidarity with our 29 African member States and with Africa in general. The International Organization of la Francophonie has been and will remain a place for cooperation and solidarity where Africa will always be given special attention.

The development of Africa requires, inter alia, the success of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). We are fully aware of that and are working in close cooperation with our African brothers and with the other international partners.

Because of his long experience with the problems of development in Africa, the Secretary-General of the OIF, President Abdou Diouf, has always believed that NEPAD was a crucial stage in the ownership of Africa's development by the African States themselves.

I would like to congratulate the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the high quality of his second report on the progress in implementation and international support for NEPAD, which is now before us today. La Francophonie is a partner in that endeavour and is happy to note that, despite difficulties, the implementation of NEPAD is moving ahead resolutely. It is doing so because Africa has demonstrated its long-term commitment to NEPAD and its ownership of that programme.

We see the practice of setting objectives for expenditures in priority areas set by NEPAD as a guarantee of the consistency between the statements and the actions of African Governments in favour of that enormous endeavour.

I would like to outline some aspects of the implementation of NEPAD, of which La Francophonie is particularly mindful. I will begin with information and communication technologies, which are essential tools for building the future. The OIF continues, through the Francophone Institute for new information technologies and training, to work to reduce the digital divide that still separates the North from the South and puts Africans in a very unfavourable situation. We thus support the integration of Africa into the globalization process by facilitating ownership of information

technologies so as to make them part of global development policies, and by promoting adaptation to the specific cultural and linguistic traits of African countries.

The programme of the Intergovernmental Agency of la Francophonie for 2004-2005 includes support for African strategic initiatives in the framework of information technology, including inter-governmental initiatives that have been planned or designed by NEPAD. The agency also intends to strengthen international synergies to help formulate regional plans during the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society to be held in Tunis in 2005.

The development of new technologies is crucial in order to truly integrate Africa into the economic and commercial relations that were born of globalization. But that is not enough. La Francophonie is therefore lending its assistance to strengthen the education and negotiating capacities of its African members. That will help in the design and execution of economic strategies aimed at mobilizing investments — without which the implementation of NEPAD would be seriously handicapped.

Likewise, support for the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA) is part of a two-fold approach — on the one hand, it is meant to promote the development of enterprise and, on the other hand, to provide a solid basis for the African Peer Review Mechanism.

Education is certainly a sector where activities carried out by La Francophonie will help implement NEPAD. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) concerning basic education, improving the quality of teaching and helping to rebuilding educational facilities — particularly in countries emerging from conflict — are all concerns that La Francophonie shares with NEPAD.

Our Organization will continue to support the formulation of national education policies, as well as professional and technical training in Africa. Ministers of Education of the French-speaking countries, who are meeting now in Africa, in Mauritius at the fifty-first Conference of Francophonie Ministers of Education (CONFEMEN), are now working to attain those goals.

Culture has always been an important field for the French-speaking community. We are happy that our work in that area is consonant with the NEPAD plan of action to develop cultural tourism in Africa.

La Francophonie is always trying to foster African arts and develop cultural industries in our member countries. As an example, I refer to the Market for African Performing Arts in Abidjan, which is now a well-known event among professionals on the African artistic scene.

Last week in Cotonou, our senior manager organized a seminar to train people in publishing and in managing cultural events. Our programmes to support travelling live performances and audiovisual production in the South, and to help distribute African films to theatres, supplement the regular support of La Francophonie to several important events in the African cinema world. Of course, there has been support for the Pan African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO) and the Carthage international film festival in Tunis, but also the "Ecrans libres" festival in Mali, the "Quintessence" festival in Benin and "Ecrans noirs" in Cameroon.

NEPAD's goal is sustainable development in Africa, within the framework of solidarity — African solidarity and international solidarity with Africa. With that framework in mind, La Francophonie will hold its tenth summit next month in Ouagadougou, at the invitation of the Government of Burkina Faso, to discuss, specifically, La Francophonie — a unified space for sustainable development.

In the lead-up to the summit, whose theme works so well with the central objective of NEPAD, we organized a seminar last May in Ouagadougou in order to identify points of convergence between the programmes of La Francophonie and those in the framework of NEPAD, in particular in the areas of the economy and sustainable development. Fourteen joint intervention areas were identified at that time.

Like several other initiatives, the meeting of the Forum on Economic Intelligence and Development on the New Partnership for Africa's Development in Paris in November 2003 demonstrated the determination of the international community to shoulder its responsibilities and to lend adequate harmonized support for the implementation of NEPAD, at a time when Africa is trying to carry out the necessary restructuring that is its responsibility.

But, as the report of the Secretary-General stresses, much remains to be done by the international community to support NEPAD, particularly with regard to creating an enabling international environment to support Africa's development and to promote investment to finance the main sectoral priorities of NEPAD.

The OIF appreciates the increasing role of the African Peer Review Mechanism that was established within NEPAD. This proves the commitment of African countries to improve governance and to adopt transparent and stringent management criteria, which should make it possible to fund projects and programmes of regional interest and to appeal to private investors. For our part, we will continue to support our member countries, with a view to making strides in that area.

War and conflict have been undermining efforts to develop Africa. The OIF remains committed to peace, to preventing and peacefully resolving crises and conflicts and to strengthening democracy, rights and freedoms in its African member countries. Likewise, we will continue to support electoral processes and to promote human rights and democratic culture within the context of the implementation of the Bamako Declaration, to which French-speaking heads of State or Government committed themselves at their ninth summit, held in Beirut in 2002.

Furthermore, in order to strengthen the national and regional political structures that are needed to implement NEPAD, the OIF will continue to promote synergy with international partners, including the United Nations and the African Union. Jointly with the United Nations, the OIF intends to organize a new dialogue with relevant international and regional organizations, to study the possibility of more dynamic cooperation to promote early warning as the best way to prevent conflicts.

I wish to conclude by appealing for a more sustained, consistent and lasting commitment on the part of the international community to NEPAD and to the development of Africa. As Africans and as partners of Africa, we are well aware that this is an important time in the history of the continent. This is an unprecedented, highly symbolic time for the new face of Africa and for the hopes and aspirations that it cherishes. In the daunting challenge of implementing NEPAD, Africa certainly bears primary responsibility, but it cannot meet that responsibility without international support.

The International Organization of La Francophonie is there to support this major initiative by making available its French-speaking expertise and experience in the areas of peace, security, democracy, good governance, human rights and sustainable development. Those are all areas where the OIF has, over the years, acquired some experience and real expertise.

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Assembly has just concluded its joint debate on agenda item 38 (New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support) and its sub-items, and on agenda item 46 (2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa). Sixty-four speakers participated in the debate.

Many representatives emphasized the importance of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as a framework for renewal and for the economic, social and political development of Africa. In that regard, they placed emphasis on the African Peer Review Mechanism as an instrument to support African efforts to establish sound political institutions, good political and economic governance, respect for the rule of law and the promotion of human rights, with a view to establishing the conditions needed for Africa's growth and development.

Many speakers welcomed the efforts made to integrate the gender approach into the implementation of NEPAD. It was in that framework that the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa was adopted at the African Union summit held in July 2004 at Addis Ababa.

The international community's support for the implementation of NEPAD was welcomed, especially regarding debt alleviation, increase in official development assistance, access to markets and assistance in capacity-building. Many speakers emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation as an indispensable complement to international cooperation for development.

Others praised the Secretary-General's establishment of the Advisory Panel on International Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development. They also expressed their support for the

activities of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa.

In connection with sub-item (b) of agenda item 38, "Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa", a number of speakers noted the favourable development of the situation of peace and security in Africa during the past year, including with the reduction of the number of conflicts in the region, the development of a common security and defence policy and the efforts undertaken to organize an international conference on the Great Lakes region.

Representatives of Africa's development partners highlighted the measures they had taken to help the African Union build its capacities in peacekeeping. Emphasis was also placed on the need to provide the African Union with the resources it needs to play a vanguard role in addressing crisis situations in Africa, in partnership with the United Nations.

Many speakers emphasized the great importance of post-conflict peacebuilding and welcomed the establishment of the Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Groups as part of a comprehensive approach to post-conflict reconstruction and development.

On item 46, "2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa", speakers recognized that diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria not only severely put Africa's health systems to the test, but also constitute a major threat to the development of the continent. Many speakers welcomed the efforts undertaken by African countries to fight against HIV/AIDS and malaria. Nonetheless, they emphasized that Africa needs the support of the international community in order to meet its health challenges. Africa's development partners reiterated their commitment to help the continent confront its range of health problems.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all participants for the interest they have shown and for their participation in the debate on these items.

The Assembly has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of agenda items 38 and 46.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.